

“Keep the Cat Free”

ISSUE 1479

FELIX



21.01.11

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

THE SOCIAL NETWORK

How many friends do you really have? Page 13



BRAINS!

Imperial researcher courts controversy: Page 9



Does Imperial have a drinking problem?

Felix gauges student opinion after Daily Mail medic article

Matthew Colvin
Aemun Reza
Kadhim Shubber

Following the controversial exposure of the drunken antics of Imperial medical students at the Reynolds Bar earlier this month, action has been taken to clamp down on the excessive drinking of “a minority of students”. However, as Felix found this week, many students have shrugged off concerns about drinking, while Royal College of Science Union President Scott Heath, has raised concerns that the bad press would be used as an excuse to interfere in students’ lives. So what do students think about the amount of alcohol that they drink, and of the fresh media interest into their drinking habits?

Many Imperial students, both in conversations with Felix and on Facebook, have been dismissive about the events described in the Daily Mail article. The piece entitled “Pass the sick bag: The antics of these Imperial College medical students should worry us all” has been mostly met with the reply ‘no it shouldn’t’. Some students felt that Imperial was being unfairly singled out due to its reputation. Bernice Cutler, the Netball Club Captain, told Felix that there was an unreasonable expectation of Imperial students, saying “I think that if the Daily Mail had went to other universities they would have found that their medics would be worse than ours. Be-
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8AM LECTURES, CLASSES WELL INTO THE EVENING AND ONE HOUR OF LUNCH...

HOW THE PROPOSED CHANGES COULD AFFECT YOU

Tom Welch



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BUSINESS



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MUSIC



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HIGHLIGHTS

On campus

Real Tricks: Quantum Mechanics Show

Dr Nic Harrigan and his gang of post-graduate quantum physicists will be recreating the world's favourite magic tricks. You'll learn how quantum physicists perform real magic – from teleportation to telepathy. Contact admin@friendsofimperial.org.uk to be put on the cancellation list. £3.

Sir Alexander Fleming Building
25 January 19:00–20:00

Wind Power 2

The Band of the Coldstream Guards lead Imperial College Winds in a benefit concert hosted by Lord Robert Winston. The concert aims to support Imperial's strong commitment to music. Contact Linda Romain – l.romain@imperial.ac.uk – for tickets and more information. General £25. Students £15.



Sherfield Building, The Great Hall
26 January 18:30

Faculty of Medicine Fellowship Ceremony

The Faculty of Medicine Fellows are elected annually and this year, Dr Pontiano Kaleebu – Director of the Medical Research Council, Professor Christopher Higgins – Vice-Chancellor and Warden, Durham University and Professor Sir Nicholas Wright, Warden, School of Medicine and Dentistry, Barts and The London will receive the award.

Sir Alexander Fleming Building, G16
27 January 18:00-19:00

The Felix Sex Survey



Oh man, that's some seriously hot stuff! Are we even allowed to print this kind of material?

Felix has launched a survey into the sexual activities of the Imperial student! It's a light-hearted 'investigation' for our Valentine's Day issue at the beginning of February. The survey will ask you to sign in with your College details but don't be put off, your answers will remain 100% anonymous, especially to us, and all the data will be deleted as soon as we've compiled the data and made some pretty graphs. Please answer all the questions honestly but don't feel that you have to answer anything with which you are uncomfortable.

The survey can be found at:

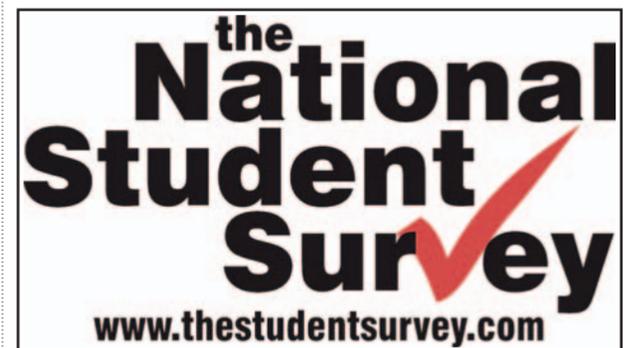
www.felixonline.co.uk/sexsurvey

Editor

Union Notice

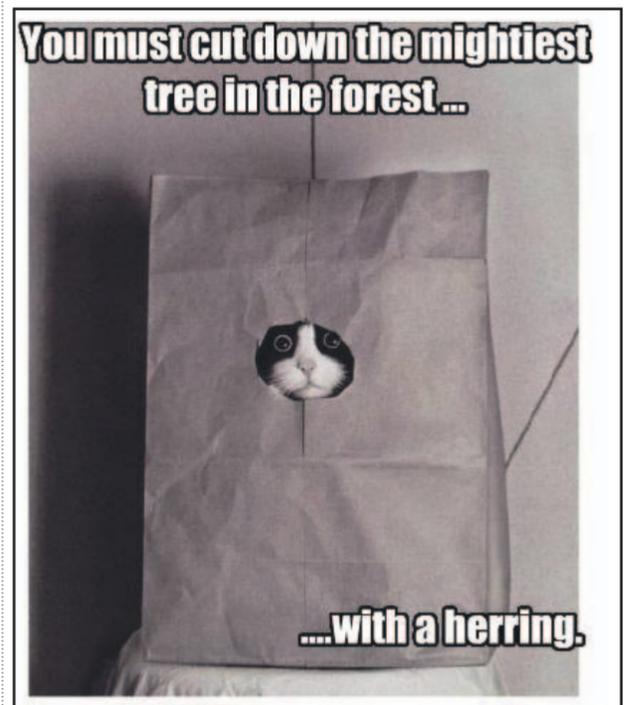
National Student Survey

www.thestudentsurvey.co.uk



What do you mean you haven't taken it yet? Are you mad? The National Student Survey (NSS) is your opportunity to rate the quality of your course and of the teaching that you received. The results are used in a range of university league tables and hence influence prospective students when they are choosing their university. So get to it! Don't let your opinions go unheard!

Lolcat of teh week



FELIX

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Further student protests planned

New wave of student protests cause counter-terrorism police to contact Imperial

Victoria Druce

Last year students took to the streets in reaction to the Tories' plans to hike up tuition fees to up to £9,000 a term. Protesters urged Nick Clegg and his Lib Dems to remember their pre-election pledges which promised to vote against a rise in tuition fees.

Peaceful protests were quickly overshadowed by mounting violence from rioters and police alike. Last week Edward Woollard, who threw a fire extinguisher from the roof of Millbank and was identified on video footage by his ridiculous hair, was sentenced to 32 months in jail. Judge Geoffrey Rivlin QC, who oversaw the case, stated that "the right of peaceful protest is a precious one. Those who abuse it and use the occasion to indulge in serious violence must expect a lengthy sentence of immediate custody" – a warning to participants in future protests. After the Millbank occupation NUS President Aaron Porter tweeted his disgust at "a minority of idiots trying to undermine 50,000 who came to make a peaceful protest." On the other hand Clare Solomon, ULU president, denied the Millbank protest was extremist or unrepresentative of the movement as a whole.

Despite the vote having been decided in December, and the law passed, pro-

tests are planned to take place later this month and in February. Porter said he expected to see "continued student protests, sit-ins and petitions in the new year". He said that students must accept the law has been passed and that now is the time to pressure university management directly to force a decision by their finance departments to only raise tuition fees to £6,000 rather than the maximum £9,000. Solomon urged students to "take the action up a notch" and cause "maximum disruption" to the higher education system in occupations and protests.

The Guardian reported this week that counter-terrorism police have contacted 20 London universities, including Imperial, for any intelligence about upcoming tuition fees protests. The news has been

"Should you pick up any relevant information [...] please forward it onto me."

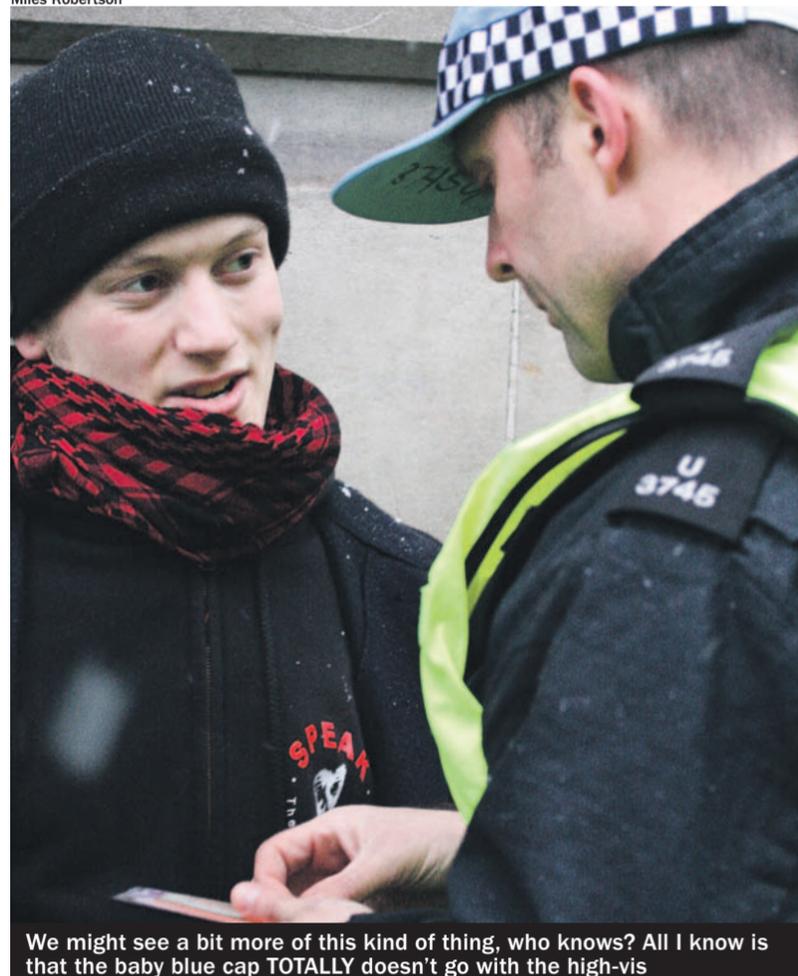
Reported email from Counter Terrorism Unit

met with hostility. Though it's hardly surprising that the police are trying to find out details of any plans early, many students feel vilified as potential terrorists for exercising their right of protest, a fact that Porter finds "worrying". Solomon defended the upcoming protests, supporting "vigorous occupations" as "a long established tradition in the student movement". At the time of writing, Imperial College London had not confirmed, or denied, that they had been contacted by counter-terrorism police.

In contrast to the student unions of other London universities, which have supported or organised protest events, Imperial's Student Union has kept a distance from the protests. The Union released a statement last year confirming that it "broadly supports the proposals of the Browne Review" and perhaps this is the reason for the lack of action at Imperial. Alex Kendall, whilst wholeheartedly supporting the right of peaceful protest and freedom of speech, condemned the violence of the previous protests and some students' behaviour as "hideous".

Though some protests were planned by members of the student body they fizzled out before gaining any real momentum around campus. So even if Imperial staff did decide to turn informer and gossip to the police they'd probably not have much to chat about anyway.

Miles Robertson



We might see a bit more of this kind of thing, who knows? All I know is that the baby blue cap TOTALLY doesn't go with the high-vis

Kennedy Institute to close

Leading rheumatology research centre moves to Oxford University

**Deepka Rana
Ian Wei**

The Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, one of the world's leading research centres in rheumatology, currently housed within the Faculty of Medicine of Imperial College will be relocated to Oxford University in what Felix has been told is a sensitive matter for the Faculty.

In November last year, an announcement was made detailing the collaboration between Oxford University and the Kennedy Institute Trust. The construction of a new rheumatology research centre at Oxford means that the sizeable grants awarded to Imperial through the Kennedy Institute will no longer be

available.

A spokesperson for Imperial College London reassured Felix that no jobs were at risk.

Professor Sir Marc Feldmann, the current director of the Kennedy Institute at Imperial, told Felix that the move had been known about for approximately 2 years but declined to comment further.

A spokesman for Arthritis Research UK, one of the main funders of the Kennedy Institute stated that this wasn't the first move for the Kennedy Institute and that it wasn't unusual for research grants to move as they develop. They insisted that they have a "longstanding relationship with Imperial and fund a significant amount of

"A spokesperson for Imperial College London reassured Felix that no jobs were at risk."

[other] work at Imperial." The spokesman added that Arthritis Research UK "believe in working with the best talent that the UK has to offer".

The Kennedy Institute has enjoyed success and contributed significantly to the field with important research such as the discovery of TNF α (Tumour Necro-

sis Factor), a type of protein that plays a large part in a specific type of arthritis. This led to the realisation that blocking this protein can alleviate the symptoms of the condition.

The Directors of the Kennedy Institute have also enjoyed global recognition, receiving several awards each. Notably, Professor Sir Feldmann received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours list last June.

The Kennedy Institute was first formed in 1965 with a foundation gift from the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology Trust formerly known as the Mathilda and Terence Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology Trust (Mathilda being the daughter of Marks & Spencer founder Michael Marks) and the origi-



The Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology is currently based at Imperial's Charing Cross campus

nal site was found in Bute Gardens. In 1997, Arthritis Research UK relocated the Institute closer to the medical school at Charing Cross Hospital.

NEWS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**
Alex Karapetian
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Silwood

Social space at Silwood Park to undergo refurbishment

The Social Space in Silwood Park, Imperial's campus in Ascot, has been undergoing refurbishment to provide better recreational conditions. The common room will be transformed to meet the quality standards of other parts of the campus, with significant heating and lighting upgrades to be applied. The estimated completion date is today (Friday 21st January).

President of the Silwood Park Student Union, Mark Ramsden, was informed of the work beginning early this term. Plans will incorporate finishes to the floor and walls chosen by students themselves.

Students were pleased to hear the plans, with appreciation for the common room's standards rising to better represent the world class research centre. Various divisions of Natural Sciences have a presence on campus, in addition to the NERC (Natural Environment Research Council) Centre for Population Biology, the International Pesticide Application Research Centre (IPARC) and the Imperial College Reactor Centre. A science and business park is also nearby.

Silwood Park, sporting a reactor and therefore a licensed nuclear site, is home to one hundred hectares of semi-natural habitats including a lake, three streams, grasslands, woodlands and wetlands. The campus is tailored to postgraduate and PhD students studying Biology, Geophysics, Meteorology and is a frequently visited site for Civil Engineers to perform surveying.

Many Silwood Park staff have spent time working on pest problems overseas, and are highly experienced in the field of Life Sciences. Restructuring took place between 2001 and 2007, causing the merge of the Biology and Biochemistry departments and eventually categorising them within the Faculty of Natural Sciences. The Division of Biology course is one of many based at Silwood Park.

The site was built in 1878 and was acquired by Imperial in 1947. The designer of Silwood Park Manor House, Alfred Waterhouse, is also credited with designing the Natural History Museum.

Alex Karapetian

Corrections

In the article entitled: "The most wonderful time of year" (Issue 1478 – 14/01/11), the subtitle mistakenly referred to the Fellwanderers as the Outdoor Club. Felix apologises for this error.

In the article entitled: King Colin proves speech is no impediment" (Issue 1478 – 14/01/11), King Edward VIII is mistakenly referred to as King David VIII. Felix apologises for this error.

If you notice an error in the paper, please email the Editor at felix@imperial.ac.uk. Felix will always endeavour to correct mistakes in the following issue and as soon as possible online.

Editor

Feasibility of longer day called into question

Zainab Ali
Sophia David
Maciej Matuszewski

It came as a shock to many last week when Felix reported that a College committee is investigating changes to the length of the College day. The proposals, which include extending the day to 8am until 7pm for undergraduates and until 8pm for postgraduates, on Mondays and Thursdays, are still under consideration but they have been treated with apprehension by students and members of staff alike, many of whom were not officially informed of the proposals. The first meeting of the committee on Monday 17th January was cancelled at short notice for unknown reasons.

Imperial College Union has raised a number of concerns about the widespread effect of the changes including: the possible negative impact on participation in clubs and societies, reduced attendance in lectures, the impact on participation in humanities courses and the negative impact on student welfare.

Pro-Rector for Education, Professor Julia Buckingham, said that the proposals would help Imperial "use [its] teaching space most effectively and ensure that [it could] accommodate the growing number of Master's courses and extra-curricular programmes the College offers." She reassured students and staff that the committee was simply investigating the proposals and that any recommendations that it made would "be given further consideration at both the Strategic Education Committee and the College's Management Board."

Professor Omar Matar, Director of Undergraduate Studies (DoUG) for Chemical Engineering acknowledged that the changes were being proposed "with the best of intentions, to create more flexibility in the timetable". However, he questioned the need for them, saying: "We haven't asked for an extension to the College day." He told Felix that he was "confident that we will not need to schedule any undergraduate lectures from 8am-9am or from 6pm-7pm. However, Professor Angus Mackinnon, Director of Undergraduate Studies for Physics, said that though he was "not a fan of the proposed change", he would be forced to use it due to the "timetable congestion in [the] Physics [department]."

Colin Kerr, the Departmental Administrator for Civil Engineering, concurred: "If we were to extend the day, it would make the job of timetabling classes easier. There would be less clashing of modules and it would be possible to offer a range of options."

Professor Buckingham said the College is "approaching a limit on the

teaching space available for all the activities undertaken day to day."

Professor Matar told Felix that neither he nor his colleagues had been consulted: "The proposed changes haven't been discussed with me and I have consulted with a number of my colleagues and they haven't been discussed with them either." The sentiment was shared by other members of staff, many of whom had not heard of the proposals.

A spokesperson for UCL confirmed that lectures there start at 9am, although "Undergraduate Computer Sciences teaching occasionally starts at 8am". The last lectures are from 4pm-5pm according to the spokesperson.

There has been significant concern about the impact of early morning lectures on the welfare of both students and staff. Professor Mackinnon pointed out that "there are bound to be serious problems for staff [...] who have to organise childcare." He also expressed his sympathy for students and staff who might have a lecture at 8am and also at 6pm in the same day: "I'd hate to be either a lecturer or a student who found himself with lectures at both 8am and 6pm." Charlotte Ivison, Deputy President (Welfare), argued that a longer day would take a "physical toll on students in terms of fatigue and in terms of less flexibility when it comes to managing their free time." One Director of Undergraduate Studies told Felix privately, "the general effect would be tiring for students".

Professor Buckingham told Felix that "that any new arrangements must be family friendly" and that staff and students would be expected to work longer hours.

Professor Mater argued that it would be difficult for some staff to attend 8am lectures: "I know a lecturer who lives in Peterborough, another who lives in Reading. It will be extremely difficult for them to teach lectures at 8am."

He also questioned the likely attendance rate of students saying: "I'm not entirely sure what the attendance of students will be like for early or late lectures. We know that attendance at 9am lectures is less than at other times."

Postgraduate students, however, were generally more receptive to the ideas. While Ritika Gupta, a masters student in biomedical engineering, said that she thought that "it's hard enough to cope with the timetable at the moment" and others said that since they already had to stay in college for most of the day they wouldn't mind their lectures being spread over a longer period. Charlotte Ivison, Union Deputy President (Welfare), raised concerns about the well-being of students affected by the changes. She said there could be problems for "mature students with children and students from certain ethnic backgrounds who may have home commitments requiring them to be at home in the time currently free".

Zahra Kadom, a representative of the Ahulul Bayt Islamic Society, commented that the changes would be problematic in the months of Ramadan, during which "a lot of people travel to their local mosques to attend services", usually between "6-7pm, which would clash with the proposed timetabling."

Stephen Long, an Ordinary Member of the Union Council, raised the issue of accommodation arguing that long hours

Veronika McQuadeova



Professor Julia Buckingham has sought to reassure students and staff, saying: "staff and students would not be expected to work longer hours", but some members of staff warned that this might be hard to ensure with the flexibility offered to students when choosing modules

Join the debate!
Share your views
on this issue at
felixonline.co.uk

already push Imperial students “to live much closer to our campus than most other London universities”, with the associated higher costs. He went on to say that the longer hours would disadvantage poorer students by making it more difficult to keep part-time jobs.

Opinions about the change in the lunch period were mixed. Dr Leroy Gardner, Director of Undergraduate Studies for Civil Engineering, confirmed that 1-hour of lunch was already the norm for Civil Engineering students. However, the proposed change in the lunch hour has caused particular concern in the humanities department. Many students, including those on Year in Europe and Language for Science degrees, already continue their language studies into lunchtime and would have no lunch break at all if the change was implemented.

The reduced lunch hour would also have a negative impact on participation in activities at ETHOS, some have argued. Daniel Taffard, the Fitness Manager at ETHOS, said that popular lunchtime classes would be hit if lunch was shortened to one hour: “Lunchtime classes are usually one of the most productive times in terms of usage so from a service and monetary point of view it is important to have these classes running.” He further explained: “The fact that the students have more than one hour is VERY important. The class is usually of one hour duration so having the time either side to shower, change, eat etc. would be important to a student.”

Heather Jones, Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), has also argued that the changes would have a negative impact on participation in sports and other clubs and societies. Neil Mosley, the Head of Sport Imperial, told Felix that he had written to Professor Dorothy Griffiths, who is chairing the committee investigating the changes, to express his views and that they were “supportive of those of [Imperial College Union].”

Jones expressed concern about Clubs & Societies’ access to rooms in College. “Either Departmental Administrators will have their workload increased significantly; they will have to check each room booking for clashes with classes, which they currently do not have to do. Or, they will simply not allow any room bookings between 6pm-8pm on the affected days.” Colin Kerr, Departmental Administrator for Civil Engineering, assures societies that although “we might not be able to make the big lecture theatres available to clubs and societies within those hours, on occasion, we should be able to [continue to] provide for clubs and societies.” Mr Kerr said that he felt that the impact would be “manageable”.

There is significant concern amongst sports teams. Bernice Cutler, Netball Team Captain, said that late lectures would particularly affect matches between universities. “The changes will be workable for home matches [...] but we’re going to face problems [with away games].”

Fears for Humanities

Sophia David argues that Humanities could be negatively affected by the proposed changes

For many students, the option to balance their science degrees with humanities subjects is fantastic opportunity offered to ensure they acquire the widest range of skills during their time here. However, some of the proposed timetable changes could increase the pressure on humanities students. It is critical that the panel overseeing the proposed timetabling changes recognise the importance of humanities to students, both in terms of enjoyment as well as the development of skills and improved employability that comes with the classes.

The proposal to have teaching during the lunch hours could mean that those undertaking language courses as part of

Year in Europe or Language for Science degrees, have no lunch break at all. Benjamin Chadwick, a first year Mathematician and Year in Europe student remarked that continuing his French classes into the single lunch hour “would be a nightmare on a busy day, [I need] a break from lectures in which I can relax”.

The Languages coordinator, Charmian Brinson, highlighted how the change would cut back the Humanities lunchtime programme. “Reducing the lunchtime from two hours to one would effectively shrink our timetable and the availability of places on our courses by half”.

Another proposal is to move the Humanities and Language classes of the Year in Europe and Language for Sci-

ence degrees to the evening, from 6pm to 8pm, a change welcomed by neither staff nor students. “It would be very disadvantageous for any student taking a Languages or Humanities option for credit to be obliged to take this part of their course in the evenings after a full day of lectures and labs,” commented Charmian Brinson.

Miriam Kennedy, a Mechanical Engineering and French student, remarked that Humanities seemed “completely under-appreciated”. He added: “If they are an accredited part of their degree, they should be held during college hours and valued as much as any other module.”

However, the value that Imperial places in Humanities shouldn’t be under-

estimated. There is already a very large evening class programme of Languages and Humanities options from 6pm to 8pm that are open to everyone including staff, students and members of the public. They have now also proposed offering new Humanities and business classes at these times, on a voluntary basis.

With the Humanities department having no representation on the panel, it is hoped that the views of both staff and students will be taken into account in any decisions made about the department. Students are lucky to have such a flourishing Humanities department at a science institution and to be able to study such a wide array of subjects. Hopefully, this will not change.

Imperial College London



Students protesting cuts to the Humanities Department in 2009

Sports training could be hit

Jovan Nedic

The College’s proposals to extend the working day would have several implications in terms of the available time for extra-curricular sporting activity.

Although some might find Imperial’s location within London an advantage, for the sports teams the significant distance to the grounds and the added costs of transport has meant that certain teams have the highest budgets and travel expenses of the clubs and societies at Imperial. The latest movements towards the extension of the day has angered some involved in sport, with Netball Club Captain Bernice Cutler explaining how training at White City presents some problems in the face of an extended day: “It’s going to be quite difficult to get students there and back at a reasonable time if people are going to have lectures until 7pm.”

Imperial College Union have provided a response to the proposals, with the view that an impact on sports training

would reduce Imperial’s sporting performance as a university. Neil Mosley, Head of Sports Imperial, has said that he is “supportive” of the Union’s views.

In terms of rescheduling training to different days, some clubs are evidently wary. Hockey Club Captain Ed Lacey, whose club trains on a Monday at Harlington (near Heathrow) explains that, “People don’t want to train on Tuesdays because we have matches the next day on Wednesday. Similarly for Thursday, we’ve had a match the day before and trying to get people to train on Friday night would be difficult to say the least.” Most, if not all, sports teams also play weekend matches.

Heather Jones warned that “[students] will face a decision between their club commitments and their degree. Some will be discouraged from participating in clubs because they won’t be able to fit it around their lectures whereas others will choose their club over certain lectures and will see their education suffer.”

David Murray



Imperial train with the England team at Harlington in 2008

FEATURE

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**
Alex Karapetian
news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial students reject concerns about drinking

...Continued from Front Page
 cause Imperial is one of the top universities [in the country] there's this higher expectation of our behaviours, but in the end we're just students."

The Football Club Captain, Simon Kilroy, agreed, commenting that: "It seems like [the Daily Mail] were surprised that students at Imperial have a drink."

However, Professor J. Laycock of the Faculty of Medicine said that Imperial's medical students had a responsibility to behave in a professional manner: "our medical students have an even greater responsibility [...] than other students, in order to publicly demonstrate their suitability to represent the doctors of the future, and to reassure the public of their professional behaviour".

There is a perception of medical students as being heavier drinkers than the rest of Imperial. Despite not being shocked by the 'antics' described in the Daily Mail article, some non-medical students have described the drinking habits of their medic peers as more "extreme". Ed Lacey, Hockey Club Captain said, "I suppose the medics are a bit more extreme in their antics. Not every time we drink do we get plastered, but it seems that way with the medics." Tristan Collier, President of the 22s, a private social club affiliated with the Royal College of Science (see "Drinking Clubs or Social Clubs?"), commented: "I don't personally think that people should throw up in the middle of a bar. I certainly wouldn't enjoy having a beer next to a bucket of sick." Simon Kilroy agreed saying wryly "[the Football Club] don't need buckets. I think our members can make their way to the toilets if needs be."

Medics, however, rejected the suggestions. Professor Laycock said: "I certainly don't think that our [medical] students are any different from many of their peer group." Research from the Harvard Medical School, released in 1991, showed that "medical students did not drink especially heavily and were no more vulnerable to alcoholism than were their counterparts in pharmacy and other professions."

Imperial College School of Medicine Student Union (ICSMSU) President David Smith insisted that there wasn't a culture of heavy drinking in the medical school: "A small minority of students do end up drinking too much but [...] the vast majority of ICSM students are either moderate drinkers or teetotal." Indeed, many medics believe they are the same as any other type of student in terms of drinking: "I think the [Daily Mail] article highlights a universal problem, not just for medics, because everybody does it," said a Medic who wished to remain anonymous. Scott Heath, RCSU President, questioned whether the article was bad publicity at all, saying: "Frankly, it was nice for the media to finally portray a part of Imperial College

Drinking Clubs or Social Clubs?

The Links, Chaps and 22s absolutely reject the label 'drinking club'. The Social Clubs of the City and Guilds College (CGC), Royal School of Mines (RSM) and the Royal College of Science (RCS), respectively, all insist that drinking is no more central to their activities than any club or society of the Union.

The Chaps Club refused to comment on who is allowed to join the club, but suggested that the entry was based on involvement in RSM sports. The 22s does not offer membership to women while the Links Club is open to men and women who are "generally from a sporting background."

The common perception of the clubs as drinking clubs is primarily based on the fact that they initiate prospective members. The Chaps Club refused to comment on their initiation but Tristan Collier, President of the 22s, defended their '22-pint ordeal' – a term not used by their members insists Tristan

– saying that "there's a tendency to [imagine] the worse examples of initiations where people are stripped naked and humiliated". He categorically denied that the 22s were involved in that kind of behaviour and said "we take very good care of our initiates". Joe Harris, Links Club Honorary Secretary, echoed Collier's comments saying "we don't humiliate [initiates]. We always make sure we look after them."

The Links and 22s emphasised their charitable activities; the 22s raised £1,600 for Macmillan Cancer Support last year. However, it seems unlikely that the male-dominated clubs are going to shake off their reputation as drinking clubs, given that the main point of contact that most students have with the clubs is in the bar. Interestingly, part of the criteria for entrance into the Chaps Club is that members are "true and whole-hearted supporters of the Union Bar"

"We always take care of people and we don't force feed [them] alcohol"

student life as comparable to that of any other university in the UK."

Positive or not, the publicity has triggered changes at Reynolds Bar. Jugs of beer have been banned and ID will be required at the door, a measure already in place at Imperial College Union on busy nights, as well as at the bar. A Medic who wished to remain anonymous commented that the changes created "more of a hassle for the bar staff" but that "people seem to still be enjoying themselves." David Smith conceded that some people would be disappointed, but said in an email to club captains that the changes made the best of a bad situation. Professor Laycock said that although drinking "has always been part of the growing-up learning experience [for students]" that "a more responsible attitude to drinking is to be encouraged."

There have also been attempts, successful whether positive or not, to change the drinking atmosphere at Imperial College Union this year. The new bar and club, FiveSixEight and Metric respectively, have been designed to discourage drinking games. Ed Lacey commented, "The

drinking atmosphere at the Union has changed since the refurbishment. There's less space for drinking games." Imperial College Union has launched a website this year, yourlimits.co.uk, designed to educate students about the effect of alcohol and drugs on their health.

Whether fair or not, there is a commonly held perception that Imperial College Union's sports teams, and some other societies, are responsible for promoting a culture of heavy drinking at Imperial. There have already been attempts to change this perception; Wednesday's sports night at the Union has been rebranded "Boom Box".

Joe Harris, the Rugby Club Captain, accepted that there was a culture of heavy drinking associated with sports teams. "To deny that the culture exists would be irresponsible" but he denied that it was unique "to the rugby club, rugby in general or to Imperial." Ed Lacey echoed his sentiments: "The drinking culture is [...] a tradition for sports teams but I would also say that it's a tradition for students in the UK in general".

However, Harris went on to explain that the drinking culture may partly "stem from the sport itself." He said that a game like rugby is extremely demanding and requires strong bonds between players. "Socialising off the pitch is incredibly important in developing this bond between players. Doing so doesn't necessarily have to be alcohol-related, it's just convenient to do so as everyone meets in the bar."

Marie Chkaiban



All together now Imperial... "LADS"

All of the sports teams with which Felix spoke were keen to emphasise that they are just as welcoming to non-drinkers as they are to non-drinkers. Football Club Captain Simon Kilroy said that most members of the Football club didn't attend Sports night at the Union on Wednesday while Bernice Cutler pointed out that last year's Netball Club Social Secretary is a non-drinker. While she conceded, "some people at times will feel pressured into drinking" she argued that it was a problem that was seen in many areas of society and wasn't "specific to this or that club, or to this university at all."

Scott Heath, however, was less accommodating, arguing that "if you are part of a sports team that is renowned for its Wednesday Night piss up it will take a lot to say no their tradition." He went on to claim that students had been deterred from joining sports teams because of the drinking culture: "I can guarantee that there are students out there who have been deterred from joining teams because they want to avoid this." Ed Lacey disagreed, insisting that non-drinkers were as welcome as drinkers: "Non-drinkers are always respected. It's not like you have to drink to be in the Hockey Club." Indeed initiations are banned by the Union and at many other universities. Students at the University

of Gloucestershire were filmed taking part in a "Nazi-style initiation" in 2008 while a student at the University of Exeter died of alcohol poisoning in 2006 after a Golf Club initiation. Imperial's social clubs, which are not affiliated with the Union and therefore not subject to their ban on initiations, have insisted that their initiations are nothing like those reported in the media. Tristan Collier, President of the 22s, said that their initiations did not involve any nudity or humiliation of any kind. "We take very good care of our initiates and [we don't] push people over the edge," he said.

Drinking games, forfeits and dirty pints, seen as controversial by some, were defended across the board. Lacey accepted that some people "might see [those] things [...] as unacceptable," but insisted that there was no coercion involved: "We always take care of people and we don't force feed [them] alcohol."

Rahul Mudannayake, a steward at the Union, agreed that the Union was a safe environment for students and argued that it was far preferable that, if students want to get drunk, that they do so at the Union. "I'd rather that students were drinking at the Union, in a safe environment, than elsewhere where they won't have stewards looking out for them," he said.

The issue of alcohol consumption is one that is under increasing scrutiny as the government tries to reduce binge drinking through minimum pricing and researchers like Imperial's Professor David Nutt attempt to show the com-

Join the debate! Share your views on this issue at felixonline.co.uk

FEATURE

Drinking



parative harm of legal drugs, like alcohol, against socially unacceptable illegal drugs. There is certainly complacency when it comes to the harm caused by alcohol. The issue of damage to a person's health scarcely appeared in our discussions with students – and certainly the authors of this piece are as guilty as those students. (Rahul Mudannayake told Felix that there were certainly a few who drank far in excess of what is healthy, noting one student who he knew drank 278 units of alcohol in one week – government guidelines recommended no more than 3-4 per day.)

It is hard to defend heavy drinking on an intellectual level. As the Football Club Captain put it, dirty pints and drinking games are “probably not ‘civilised’ behaviour”. However, it is clear that most students believe that it is an individual's responsibility to regulate their own intake – whether or not this is justifiable when you include peer pressure is debatable.

But while the Daily Mail article implied there was something unique, or uniquely wrong, about medical students at Imperial getting drunk and engaging in questionable behaviour, Heather Jones disagreed saying: “Like any university, and like society in general, we probably have some people who drink more than they should. And I'm sure that there are some clubs with a large proportion of those people. But to suggest that there is an Imperial-wide problem, that's unique to this university, is wrong.”

Additional reporting: Katherine Bettany

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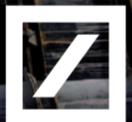
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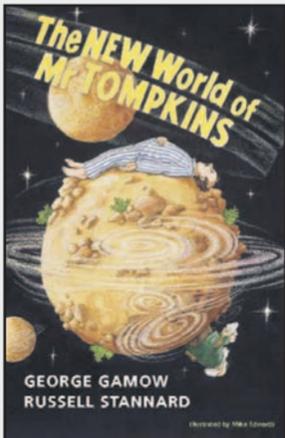
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SCIENCE

Science Editors: **Katya-yani Vyas**
Kelly Oakes, Charlie Harvey
 science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

And a few suggestions...



The New World of Mr Tompkins by George Gamow and Russell Stannard

I'm going to be a little self-indulgent this week, with a book that triggered my interest in physics. The new world of Mr Tompkins is a revised version of Gamow's classic, bringing the witty and engaging story of Mr Tompkins up to date with current physics. Taking the reader on a whirlwind tour through relativity, quantum mechanics, antimatter and black holes, Mr Tompkins provides an endearing medium for the authors to explain some complicated ideas. The physics is, of course, the backbone of the book but it reads like a novel, with Mr Tompkins' plight for romance and love bringing the characters to life.

Gamow was one of the most significant physicists of the last century but also had a unique gift for popularising science; Stannard is equally prolific as a science communicator today. Between the two of them they are able to pull apart the foundations of physics and explain the intricacies whilst we watch them being put back together.

Katya-Yani Vyas

You won't believe it...



Eating crickets, locusts, or even cockroaches, instead of a nice juicy steak, could help stop climate change. New research shows creepy crawlies produce significantly less methane and nitrous oxide than traditional livestock; gases which have a greater warming effect than carbon dioxide. The authors of the research say that insects are an "excellent food source" and are eaten in over 80% of the world's countries. So while the thought of climate change might leave you with a sinking feeling in the pit of your stomach, we doubt eating insects and worms will likely help the situation much.

New gene heralds inflammation cures

Ben Good

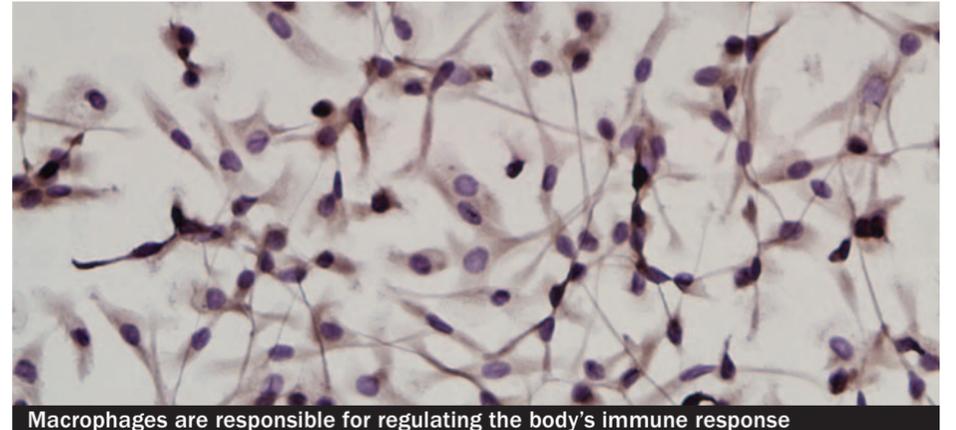
Inflammation is a major cause and constituent of many different conditions and scientists believe they have identified a "master switch" protein that could hold the key to new treatments for these diseases.

The immune inflammatory response is a vital part of the body's reaction to potential damage, whether that be infectious or due to other stimuli. This process is the responsibility of immune cells known as macrophages. These cells have a dual role, able to stimulate or suppress inflammation depending on what chemicals the cell secretes into the tissues.

However, despite the defensive intentions of the inflammatory response, in many conditions it is the inflammation that is the main cause of symptoms and complications.

A team from Imperial College London has come up with a potential new way to control the inflammatory response. Their results indicate that a protein, known as Interferon regulatory factor 5 (IRF5), is the "master switch" responsible for the role of macrophages in inflammation.

If this protein is blocked it could have potential therapeutic benefits for several different conditions including rheumatoid arthritis,



Macrophages are responsible for regulating the body's immune response

lupus and multiple sclerosis.

A senior researcher who worked on this study, Dr Irina Udalova, said "Diseases can affect which genes are switched on and off in particular types of cells.

Understanding how this switching is regulated is crucial for designing targeted strategies to suppress unwanted cell responses."

IRF5 was targeted after gene association studies linked variations in the protein to autoimmune diseases. The study itself was carried out using genetic technology to introduce more

copies of the genes encoding for IRF5 into in-vitro cells. After this they were able to observe that the macrophages with anti-inflammatory characteristics given additional copies of IRF5 promoted inflammation. As well as this, they found that by blocking IRF5 with synthetic molecules they could block the inflammatory effects.

Dr Udalova summed up the potential of the study by saying "This is really exciting, because it could give us new anti-inflammatory treatments for a wide variety of conditions."

Shooting the stars to find meteorites

Maciej Matuszewski

The finding of a new meteorite in Western Australia's Nullarbor Desert has been announced by an international group of scientists, led by Imperial's Dr Philip Bland. This was achieved using the Desert Fireball Network, a project involving the Onarejov Observatory in the Czech Republic, the Western Australia Museum, Curtin University, Perth, as well as Imperial College. The Network consists of a number of film based cameras, used because the available digital cameras do not have a good enough resolution, spread out over several thousand square kilometres of the desert. Each takes time lapse photographs of the night sky, the film of which is sent by local farmers back to the researchers to be developed and studied. The clear Australian sky allows useful photos to be taken almost every night. If a meteorite fireball appears in more than one picture the scientists are able to calculate not only its previous orbit, but, using climate models, also where it landed. The system is so accurate that the position of the latest find was calculated to be just 150m from its true location.

While this is not the first such tracking system to be set up, it is the first in the Southern Hemisphere and the first which allows easy retrieval of the meteorites. The dry, featureless desert means that they remain undisturbed in the months between the scientists' visits and that they are easy to spot when the researchers do arrive. Dr Bland has said that "other teams have encountered problems because meteorites

are small rocks and they're quite hard to find in vegetated areas". The new meteorite, only the size of a fifty pence piece and a deep black colour, would have been very difficult to locate had it not contrasted so well with the flat, white limestone of the Nullarbor.

Knowing the composition of the meteorites as well as where they came from can tell scientists a lot about the formation of the Solar System. This project is very significant as there have previously only been about a dozen meteorites whose orbits have been recorded. The

only other alternative which can collect the same data, sending probes out into space, is several times more expensive.

The team's previous find, the first using the equipment, was the Bunburra Rochole meteorite, samples of which were recovered in 2008 and 2009 after it fell on the 20 July 2007. It had a very unusual orbit and composition and provided evidence for a theory of how planetesimals, large asteroids which were the building blocks of planets, may have been formed in the inner Solar System.

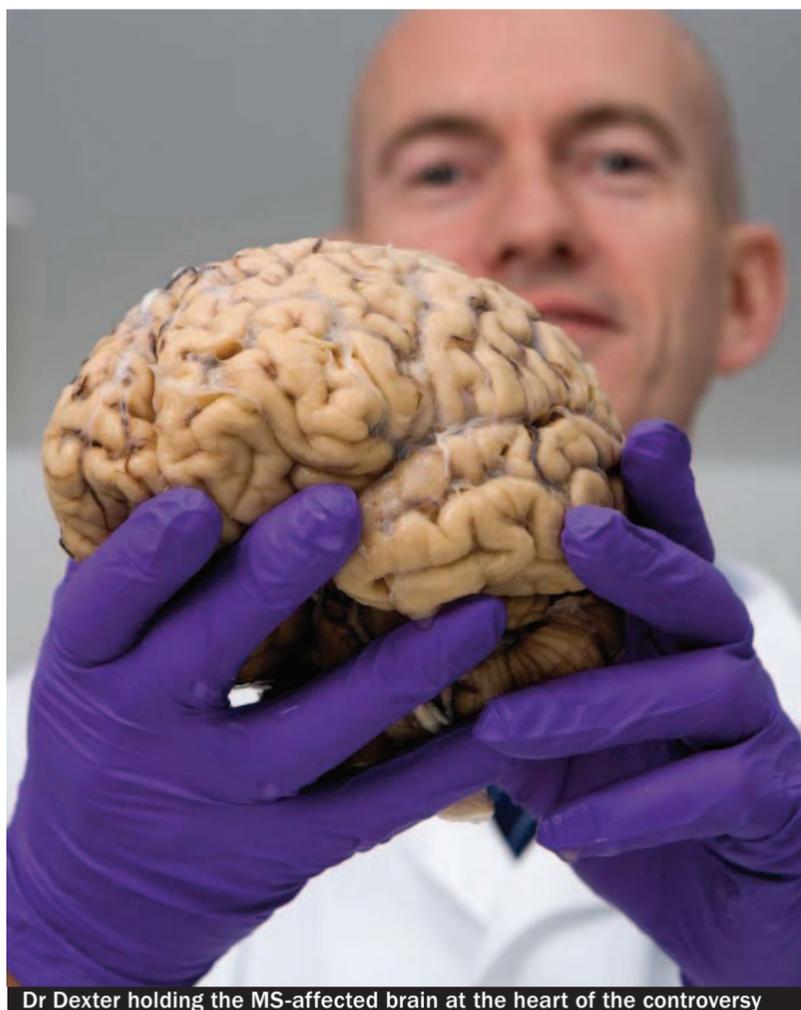


Time lapse photographs, such as this, are helping scientists discover new meteorites

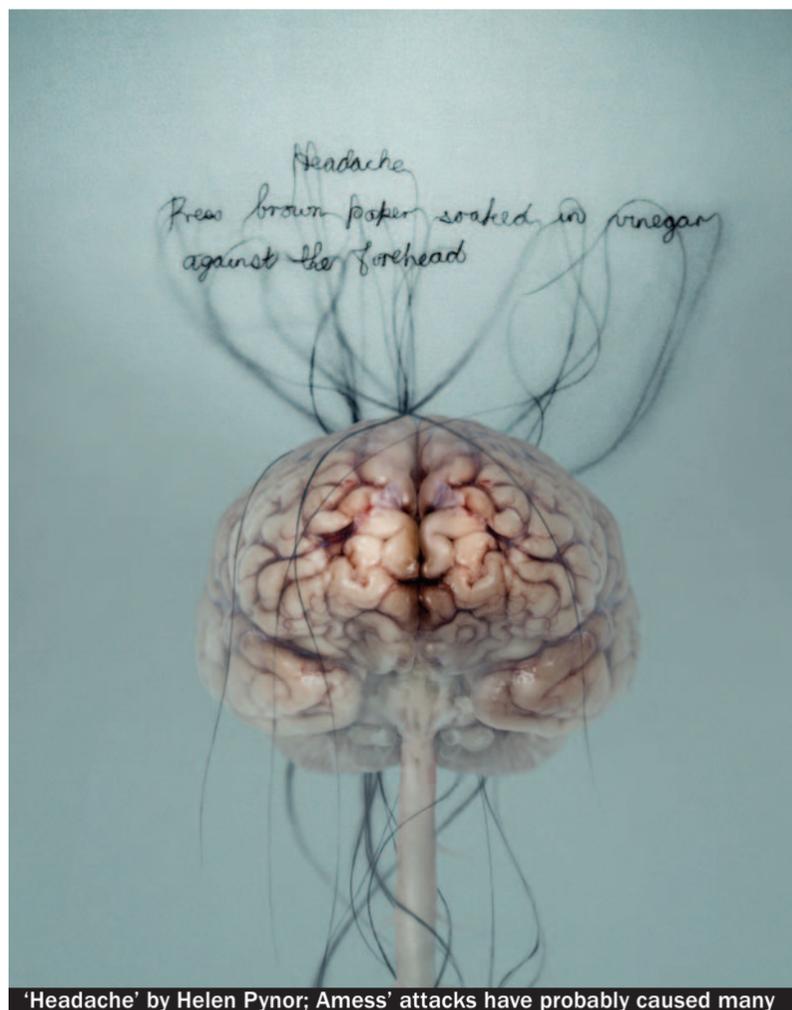
SCIENCE

Controversial battle for our minds

Imperial's Dr Dexter comes under fire for 'degrading' exhibition



Dr Dexter holding the MS-affected brain at the heart of the controversy



'Headache' by Helen Pynor; Amess' attacks have probably caused many

Andrew Purcell

A London art gallery's display of a brain removed from the dead body of a multiple sclerosis sufferer has been attacked by Tory MP David Amess, who has branded the display as "disrespectful and unacceptable".

Mr Amess, a Roman Catholic and former member of the health select committee, said "it's one thing if this is done in a laboratory, but it's degrading to put body parts on display in a public place".

The display, which was inspired by Dr David Dexter, reader in neuropharmacology here at Imperial College, aims to "raise public awareness of brain disorders like multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease that affect a significant number of people worldwide, and highlight the importance of brain donation for research".

Dr Dexter responded to Amess' criticisms last week in an article for the Guardian's website, in which he questions whether a similar furore would have ensued if the organ on display were, say, a kidney, rather than the brain?

Dr Dexter goes on to say "you don't go about demystifying the brain by locking it away in a laboratory, but by ap-

propriately involving it in widely accessible media like art". "This exhibition is a bold step in the right direction".

Last November, Dr Dexter invited artists Katharine Dowson and David Mar- ronto to observe a brain dissection at the Joint MS Society and Parkinson's UK Tissue Bank, of which Dr Dexter is Scientific Director.

According to the curators of GV Art Gallery, where the exhibition, entitled Brain Storm, will be on display until tomorrow, several of the works on exhibit were made in "direct response to this experience".

Dr Dexter is keen to stress that the brain tissue exhibited "meets the strict guidelines that govern the display of biological materials" and that the tissue "was not altered or enhanced in any way". He feels that this is particularly important, as it means "the public is viewing exactly what the scientist has observed in the laboratory".

GV Art is currently the only private gallery in the country to hold a Human Tissue Authority Licence for Public Display and Storage.

However, this is not the first time that the display of human tissue has caused uproar.

Gunther von Hagens' infamous Body

Worlds exhibition came under fire in 2004 when German magazine Der Spiegel reported that von Hagens had acquired corpses of executed prisoners from China.

Von Hagens later obtained an injunction against this magazine, but he was forced into making the embarrassing admission that he did not actually know the origins of the bodies, several of which he subsequently returned to China.

Then, as now, the loudest critics of the displays came from Christian and Jewish religious groups, who have criticised the display of human tissue on the grounds that such displays are "inconsistent with reverence towards the human body".

In 2007, the Bishop of Manchester accused the Body World exhibitors of being "body snatchers" and "robbing the NHS".

However, no such accusations can be made this time round, as the brain will be returned to the Tissue Bank at the end of the display period and its usefulness for researchers will not have been affected.

It is hoped that displaying the brain will help raise public awareness of brain disorders like multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease.

Multiple sclerosis affects roughly 1 in

700 people in the UK, while Parkinson's affects 1 in 100 of people aged over 60 years.

Both diseases remain incurable.

Researchers hoping to develop more effective treatments for these diseases are reliant on tissue donations, not only from patients affected by these diseases, but also from healthy donors.

The latter are often in shorter supply but are necessary for comparison studies.

Dr Dexter believes that, as well as "pushing boundaries", the exhibition "highlights the importance of brain donation for research".

He says: "Art has a significant role to play in science as a tool for communicating to the public what the scientist sees in the laboratory, in a form that can be understood by everyone".

Thus, it would seem that just as science and art, two cultures which have essentially been at war for the last half century following C.P. Snow's infamous lecture, are finally collaborating peacefully together, science's other great foe, religion, has come wading in to stir things up.

It is hard to see why Mr Amess might be so offended when they, themselves, display organs in their churches.

450 year old Bacon. Mmm

Jan Piotrowski

This weekend, it is time to celebrate bacon. When tucking in to that greasy, hangover-soothing fry-up, take a moment to think about Francis Bacon, who, this weekend, is celebrating the 450th anniversary of his birth.

Sir Francis was born on 22nd January, 1561 into a wealthy family and is widely acknowledged as the founding father of modern science. Holding the positions of Attorney General and Lord Chancellor, Bacon was undoubtedly an influential man. Yet he is remembered primarily for his efforts to create a coherent and universal scientific method, championing observation as a central tenet to scientific enquiry.

It may seem absurdly obvious to a modern scientist, but before it was promoted by Bacon, systematic observation was not deemed important; scientists relied heavily on the writings of Aristotle to guide their theories that assumed a base of ultimate truths from which all other knowledge could be deduced. Bacon saw this reliance on a finite source of knowledge as severely limited and he suggested that theories should be informed by observation. Induction, the process of predicting future events based on past observations, remained the dominant philosophy for several hundred years after Bacon's death.

However, despite his huge influence in creating modern science, Bacon was anything but a selfless saint. In a flagrant abuse of his political powers (it is nice to see that some things never change), Bacon busied himself with multiple counts of corruption after he fell deeply into debt. Despite his close relationship to King James, he was fined £40,000 and spent several days locked up in the Tower of London in 1621.

Despite this fall from grace, Bacon continued to develop his ideas in writing and research until his death in 1626. It seems rather fitting that the grandfather of science died by the hand of his own creation – contracting pneumonia whilst conducting observations into the preservative effect of low temperatures on meat.



Francis Bacon - liked silly hats

SCIENCE

Science Editors: **Katya-yani Vyas**
Kelly Oakes, Charlie Harvey
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Backing the future of Parkinson's research

Thea Cunningham

Imperial College is set to become a research centre in a major new study into Parkinson's disease, led by Hollywood star Michael J Fox.

The research, co-ordinated and part-funded by the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, will recruit patients in the earliest stages of the disease in a bid to boost our understanding of how it progresses over time.

Scientists intend to use samples taken from 400 patients from five research centres in Europe, including ones in Italy, Germany and Austria, as well as from 14 hospitals in the United States.

Parkinson's disease is a neurological condition that affects about 120,000 people in the UK.

It is caused by a loss of nerve cells in the brain that produce dopamine, a chemical messenger important for co-ordinating movement. As a result, sufferers often experience slow movement,

tremors and rigidity.

Scientists do not currently have any cure for Parkinson's, nor any definitive way of measuring how the disease progresses.

Research suggests drugs already being used to treat the condition are to some extent effective at halting its progression, but more data on the progressive process is needed, which is why the study – the first of its kind – will be crucial.

It is hoped the research will produce biomarkers that will enable doctors to monitor progress in Parkinson's sufferers and help assess drug efficiency.

The research centres will follow patients for 3-5 years, recruiting them before they begin any treatment. The patients will undergo brain scans and have their motor skills analysed. Scientists will also examine samples of their blood, urine and spinal fluid.

The data will be compared along the way with that from healthy volunteers

to pinpoint how the condition unfolds in their bodies and how and why their nerve cells are dying.

Michael J Fox was diagnosed with young-onset Parkinson's disease in 1991, aged just 30. The Back to the Future star set up the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research in 2000, with the intention of raising awareness and funding for the disease.

"If there's one thing I know for sure, it's that better treatments aren't going to fall from the sky", said Fox. "Real challenges stand in the way of the results we need".

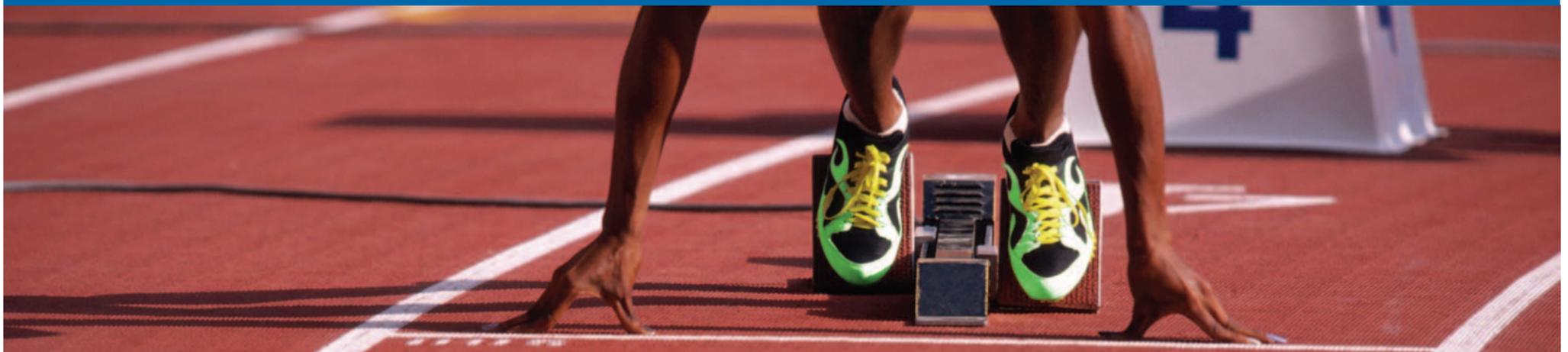
The study is set to start in the next few months and the UK site will be led by David Brooks, Professor of Neurology here at Imperial.

With one person being told they have Parkinson's every hour in the UK, let's hope the study will help improve our understanding of this debilitating disease and how it progresses as soon as possible.



No, no, no. Denim with a gilet? You must be mad Michael!

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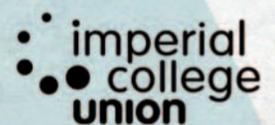
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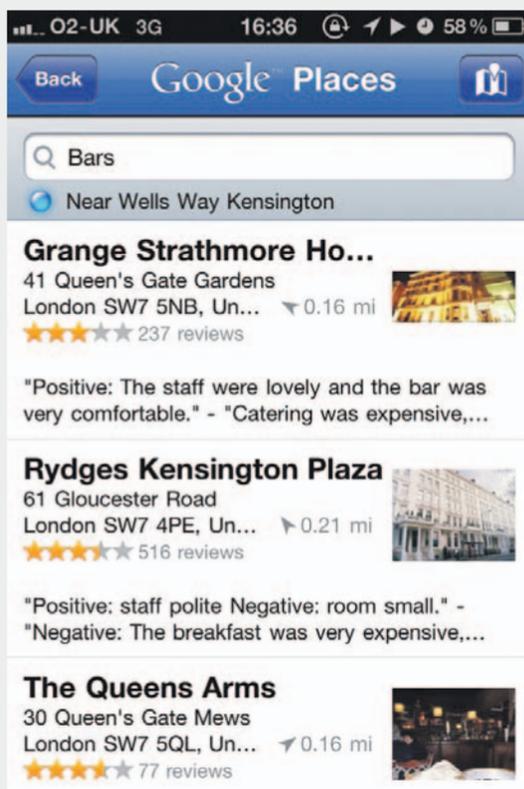
TECHNOLOGY

Technology Editors: **Samuel Gibbs**
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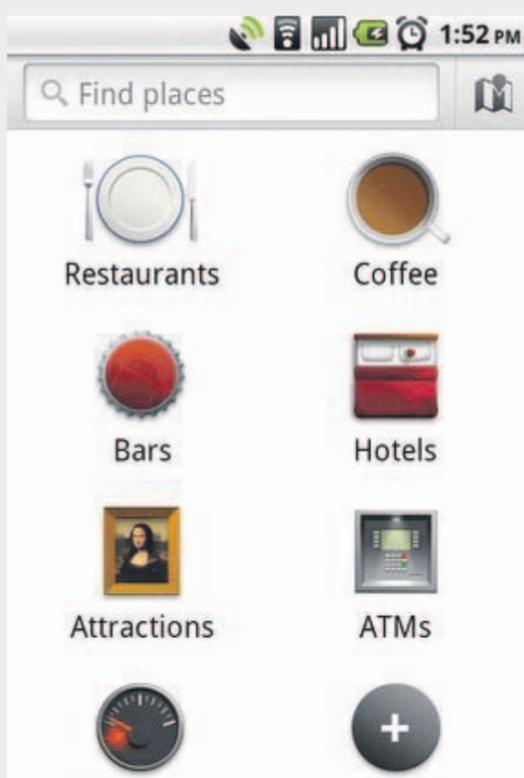
Free App of the Week

iOS - Google Places for iPhone



Google Places lets you search for and rate places to go, all with the 'Hotpot' personal recommendation engine. Data is a bit out of date, but one to watch.

Android - Google Maps with Places



As with all things Android, integration with the core apps is easy. Places has been built directly into the Google Maps app for instant access.

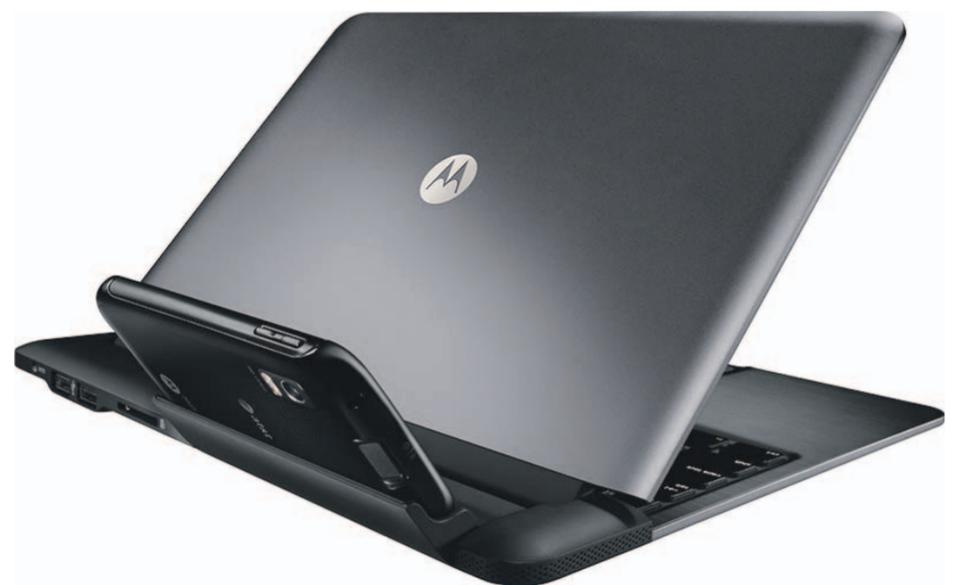
The Motorola Atrix 4G Versus the Cloud

Chris Fonseca

With the introduction of the Motorola Atrix at CES, we saw a modern implementation of the "One Device to Rule them All" paradigm. Smartphones have reached a state where they encompass our phone, media player, casual web browser and camera, all to a level that is more than acceptable to the average user. The Atrix takes this to the next level with its laptop dock accessory, potentially making it our primary computer on top of everything else.

This contrasts to the way that the majority of the technology industry seems to be heading. With Internet speeds and accessibility improving at such a fast rate this past decade, the concept of "the cloud" has been on everybody's lips. Services like Dropbox and Apple's iDisk, as well as the idea of home servers, have made it possible to have several devices all linked up to one source of data. We see this at Imperial every day. Wherever I am, on whatever campus, I know I can log in to any computer and see the same desktop screen I always see. Moreover, I can VPN in from home and have access to any file I have stored on their system.

Google are currently the ones spearheading the cloud concept. With services like Google Docs and Google Calendar, should anyone decide to steal all my gadgets, I know that all that work and all those appointments are safely stored on our future overlord's servers. Soon, we will see this taken to the extreme with Chrome OS. The principle behind this new browser-based operating system is that anyone can log into any machine with an Internet connection and be taken to their own account. All of their applications, Internet history, bookmarks, themes, documents, etc. are presented to them in the same way as their home computer. While this seems like a drastically new ap-



proach to how we use computers, in reality it's a recycling of ideas. In the days of the mainframe system, thin clients would connect to a central computer system for everything, acting as a simple terminal. Of course this now outdated technology relied on wired connections, but with technologies like 3G making the internet far more accessible everywhere you go, it's a concept that is getting increasingly feasible on the move. Therefore, the idea of a thin client connecting to, and pulling all information from, a server has morphed into what we see in cloud computing today.

The other approach is lot less of a stretch of the imagination, at the moment. The technology we see every day involves: 32GB of storage on components the size of a thumbnail, laptops that are more powerful than 1980s supercomputers, and other laptops that are lighter than

the majority of textbooks available at the Central Library. CES revealed the future of mobile devices. One that involves multi-core processors, super-fast WiFi and 4G Internet connectivity, plus phenomenal graphics performance, all housed in a pocketable device, which we can take with us everywhere. The big question is: at what point does this one small device meet the universal functional needs of the majority.

These two very different approaches to how we use computers both come with drawbacks, but as with all other fields of technology, there's no telling how magical they could become in the near future. What I really like about this outlook is the fact that it is us that ultimately benefits, regardless of which method dominates. Whether it's in your pocket or in the cloud, all your data will soon be wherever you want it to be.

Facebook in address privacy u-turn

Feroz Salam

Facebook was forced to beat a hasty retreat over the previous week as plans to allow third party access to user phone numbers and addresses caused strong concerns among security experts, even before the feature was fully rolled out. Less than 72 hours after a blog post announced the new capabilities, another posting was made stating that the capabilities were 'temporarily on hold' until required changes were made to the system.

As a repository of one of the largest collections of personal information that has ever existed, Facebook is no stranger to privacy controversies, with at least one major issue blighting the company every year. Yet for a company that prefers to plough through

its problems by simply refusing to acknowledge that they exist, the quick reaction and retraction mark a paradigm shift towards PR friendly policy.

In Facebook's vision of this mobile-friendly future, users could use their mobiles to access up-to-the-minute deals while shopping or eating out, while shops could benefit from having direct contact with customers who shop regularly at their stores, instead of having to route their ads through Facebook.

While an advertiser's dream tool, such open access poses a huge number of privacy concerns. Facebook already suffers from a sizeable data mining problem as profiteering developers attempt to gain access to user data under the guise of providing some other service, and it's not a stretch to imagine the

trouble this would cause if they were allowed to reach you at home or at work.

The problem with the Facebook development system is the ease by which a developer can start distributing an application. Facebook only requires developers confirm their phone numbers or their credit card details, after which they can publish any number of applications. This is different to the system at Apple, for example, where developers have their code vetted before it enters the market.

Facebook's reversal suggests that if they do launch a revised version, users might be in much more control of when and where they may be contacted by developers. Yet it again brings up the question of whether users understand what they sign up for on the Internet, and if they do, whether they really care.

TECHNOLOGY

In November last year the latest in a seemingly never-ending string of social networks launched. 'Path' was hyped as a new way to socialise online and claimed to be founded on scientific principles. Its creators call it 'a personal network' where users can augment existing relationships instead of replacing them. Uniquely, on this social network you are limited to 50 friends. So what are these scientific principles, and what questions does this new network raise about our ability to manage our online relationships?

The hope is that, since users are restricted to sharing pictures and videos with 50 friends, they will be encouraged to share more personal moments with their nearest and dearest, instead of broadcasting their lives indiscriminately.

Why 50? Path's creators claim to be inspired by the anthropologist Professor Robin Dunbar. In 1992, Dunbar used data from primates to generate a number, popularly known as Dunbar's number, which predicts the stable social group size to which humans are cognitively limited. This lies between 100 and 230, but the commonly cited figure is 150. He extrapolated this number from data showing a strong relationship between the number of primates in a social group and the volume of a brain area called the neocortex.

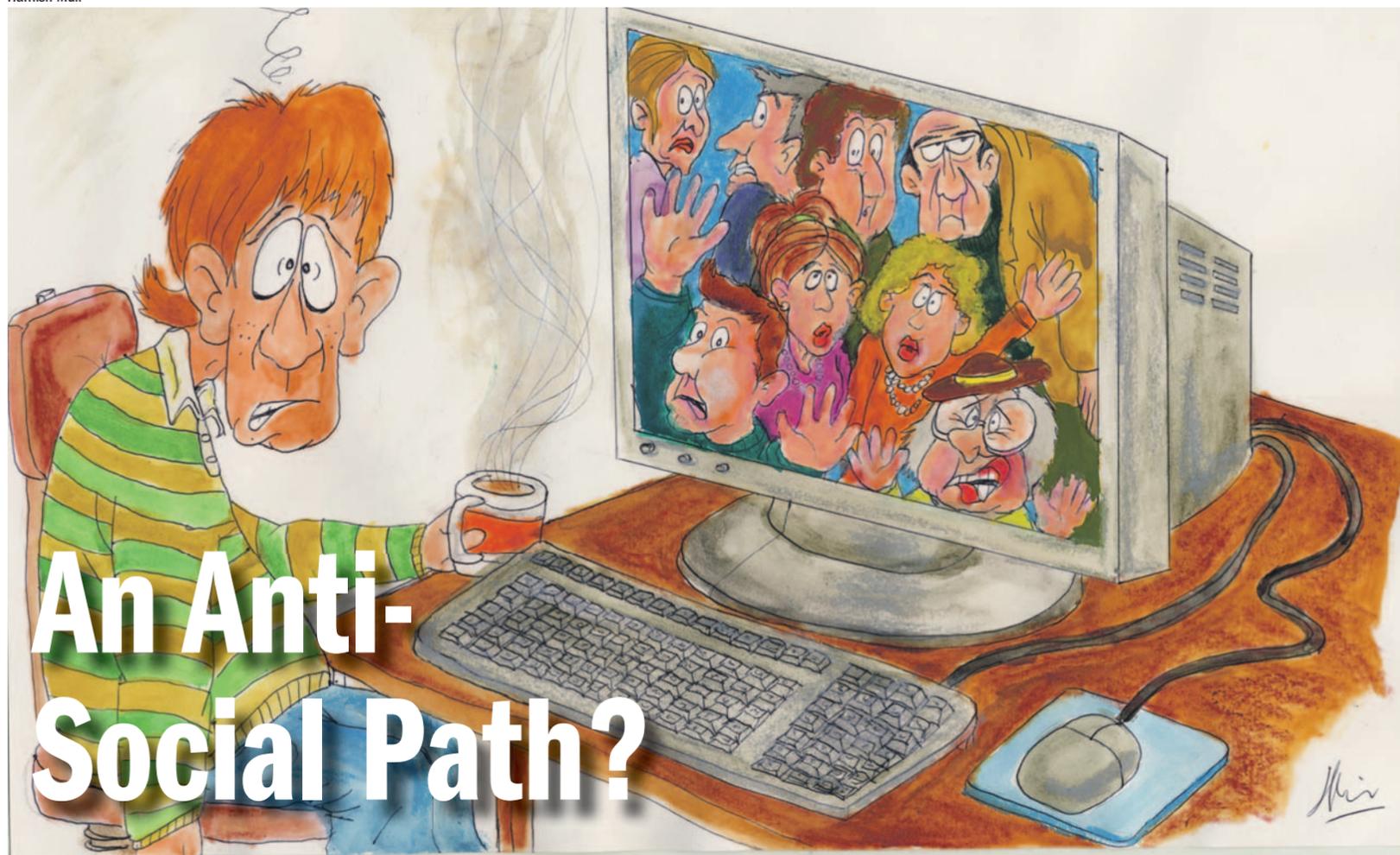
Dunbar found that personal relationships in these groups expanded approximately by a factor of 3. "Your personal real world social network actually consists of a series of circles or layers that typically number 5, 15, 50, 150, 500, 1500 (with each layer inclusive of the ones inside it)," Dunbar explains. Path's creators limit your online friends to 50, saying that these are the people who "we consider to be the most important and valued people in our lives."

Social groups are traditionally maintained primarily through close physical contact, but online social networks can simulate physical proximity with friends all over the world. Does the virtual world therefore function differently to the physical one? Is Dunbar's number relevant online? Some people believe that in the age of extreme social connectivity, Dunbar's number is increasingly irrelevant due to the fact that we can maintain some form of relationship with huge numbers of people. In an influential blog post, Chris Brogan, businessman and journalist, outlines how to 'beat' Dunbar's number and maintain huge social networks through extreme organisation.

However, Dunbar argues that, in reality, this is not possible. "Network size in the virtual world seems to mirror network size in the real world, both according to our data and that of others. Facebook did a complete analysis of the [average] number of friends [people had] in their entire database in February 2010, and the average was 120-130."

"There is a question as to what limits network size in the real world -- time, memory or (emotional) cognition," Dunbar explains, "If it is time or memory (i.e. keeping track of what people

Hamish Muir



Elizabeth Crouch takes a look at the new social network that argues fewer friends leads to more meaningful relationships

have done), then digital media should solve that and allow us to increase network size. There seems to be no evidence that the electronic world actually does allow us to increase network size, suggesting that the constraint is something to do with the kind of interaction or emotional cognition."

What is this emotional restraint, and why is it related to the size of your brain? "I wish we knew!" says Dunbar "It is clearly something to do with the capacity to process relationships. In part, this is a time problem, because you have to invest time in a relationship to make it work at a certain level of quality."

"But there is a cognitive constraint too. We have recently shown that the size of your social network correlates both your competences on metalizing skills (the ability to understand what others are thinking) and the size of core areas of the brain involved in metalizing competences. So this looks like a processing capacity constraint."

Although we do not fully understand why, it seems that the fundamental wiring of our brains prohibits us from increasing our social

network size. Why do we have so many online friends if we cannot cognitively facilitate everyone? "150 isn't the limit on the number of people you can know, just on the number you can have a personalised relationship with," Dunbar explains. "The [other people you know] are people you recognise, but the quality of relationships is different and impersonal. 1500 is around the limit of the number of faces you can put names to. You can always add more friends to your Facebook page, but this doesn't make all of them friends in the true sense. They are more like voyeurs onto your social world."

Another of Path's aims is that, by limiting users to 50 friends, members will post more personal moments of their lives. This concept was inspired by the work of Nobel-winning behavioural economist Daniel Kahneman. He studied the nature of memories and experiences relating to happiness, quantitatively demonstrating that our perception of happiness is often skewed by what we last experienced rather than the entire experience. The creators of Path are reported to have heard Kahneman speak early in 2010, and decided to make their network one where more personal

memories could be shared.

Does this mean the online relationship on Path is better quality? As Path is so new, this remains to be seen. However, it is worth examining whether online relationships are of equal value to those in the physical world. This is relatively unknown territory, but more research in this area is taking off. Aleks Krotoski, a technology journalist and academic, has extensively researched the social psychology of online relationships. She believes that if you want to understand whether friendships are different online compared to offline than you need to get to "the nitty gritty of what defines friendship, you have to look at the psychological features of closeness." One area she examines is trust.

In her PhD thesis, Krotoski studied people who used Second Life, and questioned them thoroughly on the issue of trust. She found a whole spectrum of different degrees of closeness between people who didn't know each other offline, and "that this closeness developed in the same way as offline friendships and relationships develop: through sharing, through disclosure, through reciprocity of personal information and through perceptions of similarity." In other words, people found new methods to develop values essential for friendship and have close relationships.

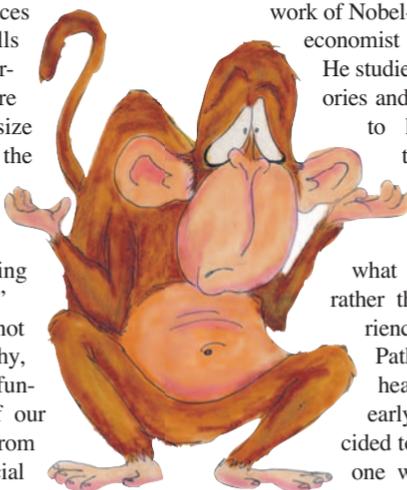
But this doesn't answer whether online relationships are equivalent to those

in the physical world. Robin Dunbar has recently completed studies looking at how different modes of online social interaction affect relationship quality.

"None of the digital modes yields the same relationship satisfaction as face-to-face interaction, with the possible exception of Skype," Dunbar explained. "What seems to be critical, however, is the amount of laughter you do in the process. [However], trust is crucial to all relationships, online or face-to-face, and is built up through interacting frequently and by the signals we give off."

The amount of time we spend online, and the relationships we establish, is a controversial topic. Currently, it appears that our brains are not physically capable of supporting larger friendship circles and our social structure appears to be the same online and offline. However, the scientific evidence that supports this also shows that we already only keep in touch with a core group of friends online and, if users are proactive, then they can select who sees their information. It is possible that Path is simply a more convenient way to share moments with those who actually mean something to you.

The important question that remains unanswered is whether the same value can be attributed to online friendships as those in the physical world. Here, Path will be judged along with all social networking sites; none of the scientific principles on which it is based will alter that!



BUSINESS

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Snippets

BoE monetary policy criticised

This week several MPs have been adding their voices to the economists who have been warning of uncontrollable inflation for some time now. The Bank of England (BoE) has been failing in its mandate of holding inflation rates below 2% for over a year, as a result of record low interest rates. December saw especially high price rises, and new figures will be published in February. After that, BoE governor Mervyn King will face the British Parliament's Treasury Committee to justify his policies.

John Thurso, a Liberal Democrat member of the committee has warned that he is "looking for reassurance that we're not just quietly abandoning the inflation target." A Conservative fellow committee member, Mark Garnier (not of laboritore fame) added that fuel price inflation in particular is "especially a problem outside London where people rely on their cars to move around."

However, the Government is relying on the current weakness of Sterling to lower the rate of increase in the national debt. The fear is that tightening monetary policy may endanger this.

The opposition Labour party has been taking this position, with one of their Treasury Committee members arguing, "the recovery has enough problems with the spending cuts and growing unemployment. If the MPC lost its nerve at this moment, I really think that would be the final straw. We would be in danger of going back into recession."

Goldman profits fall, bonuses cut

Goldman Sachs announced this week that its fourth quarter profits for last year were £1.5 bn, less than half of the figure for 2009. The poor showing had been anticipated by the market, resulting in a drop of only 2.7 per cent in Goldman's share price on release of the figures.

The combined profit from all four quarters of 2010 was reported as £5.3 bn, almost 40 per cent lower than one year ago. Goldman has blamed low client activity in the fixed income, currencies and commodities group for the weak performance.

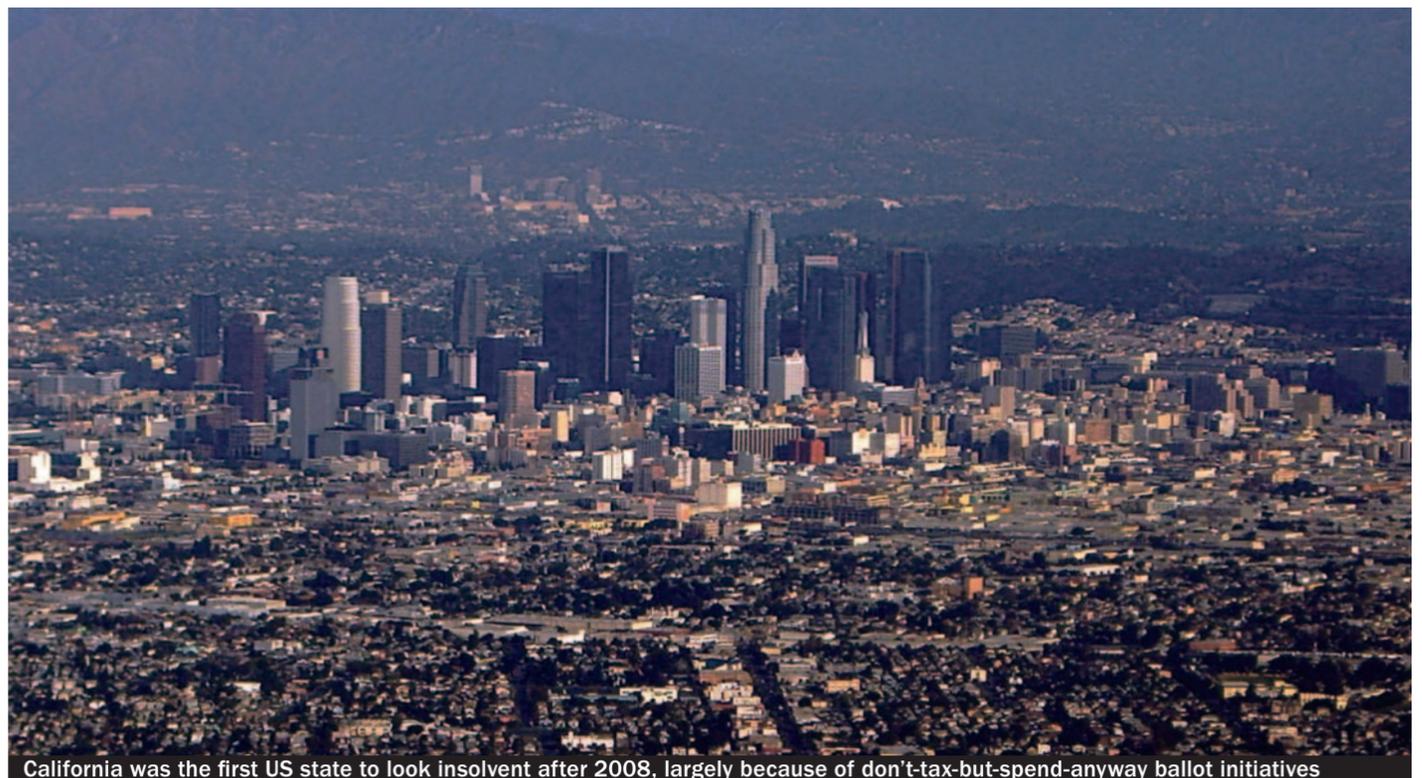
This is confirmed by the fact that the bank made most of its profits from proprietary trading. This is where banks use their own money, rather than client money, to trade for their own account. The practice has been made somewhat more difficult as a result of the major financial regulation Bill that the US passed last year.

But the bank has still been able to set aside £9.6 bn for its end of year bonus pool, down only 5 per cent on last year. This represents almost 40 per cent of its net revenue for 2010, double the amount set aside for share holder dividends.

The Bank's Executive Chairman Lloyd Blankfein remained optimistic, seeing, "signs of growth and more economic activity" in the near future.

Municipal bonds: The latest bubble?

Lingxi Huang considers the credibility of the latest concerns being raised about municipal bonds in the US



As the sovereign default crisis in Europe continues to send tremors through the global financial system, the next perfect storm in the market may already be brewing on the other side of the Atlantic. Meredith Whitney, whose fame is attributed to her accurate predictions of the 2008 subprime mortgage crisis, issued a warning in an interview on 60 minutes, the flagship CBS interview programme, about municipal bonds.

She warned that the United States was "facing sizable defaults of municipal debt on a nationwide scale". If the picture is really as grim as she painted it to be, expect plenty of hand wringing for investors and governments alike in the coming weeks and months.

Municipal bonds are a type of debt security issued by states or counties, which are used to finance expenditures such as the construction of roads or schools. Traditionally, they are considered low risk investments that offer steady, tax-exempted earnings. Many of them are bought by individuals from the high income tax groups for their favour-

able tax implications.

Once considered "risk free" investments because of trust and implicit guarantees that the governments' backing provides, municipal bonds have been facing substantial outflows of capital since last November. Individual investors have already withdrawn US \$3.1 bn from funds specialising in municipal bonds.

Yields for bonds issued by local governments and similar entities have shot up, reflecting an increase in perceived risk for such bonds and the borrowing costs for the issuers. Some even argued that states like California are already in default due to their poor financial health, which makes it almost impossible for them to honour their debts.

The Federal Reserve's quantitative easing is responsible for this sudden change in investors' attitudes. Fearing that the Fed's QE2 program could lead to higher inflation and depress the value of the dollar, investors began selling government bonds. This in turn led to a sharp rise in bond yields in the market that then affected the municipal bonds. In addition, there has also been a deluge

"[The United States is] facing sizable defaults of municipal debt on a nationwide scale"

of new issuance that flooded the municipal bond market, as cash-strapped states turn to issuing new debt to raise more funds.

The brewing problems in municipal bonds have wider implications than financial hardship for American states and their residents. It calls into question whether any states or nations are truly safe from a Greek style crisis. When discussing the current Eurozone crisis, analysts seem to have drawn a clear distinction between the struggling "peripheral" economies and more robust ones. However, no one can say for sure where the line is drawn for the rest, and when crossing the line will trigger another crisis in government debt.

Read this article
online at
felixonline.co.uk

BUSINESS

Following the financial crisis of 2008, many developed nations like the UK and France, are facing burgeoning public debt. Since deficit spending is largely funded by issuing government bonds, the exodus of capital from municipal bonds foreshadows something more ominous looming ahead for the sovereign debt market. The US Treasury bills, long held as the golden standard in risk against which all other investment are measured, may suffer from a similar crisis of confidence, with disastrous results for the rest of the world.

So far, any newly issued US bonds would be snapped up quickly, but if the appetites of big buyers such as Japan and China wane, the US government may have trouble finding investors who can stomach its national debts. There is

“Deutsche Bank says that municipal finance stands “on the cusp” of improvement”

already a real possibility of an US default, causing the mother of all financial crises. With its public debt hovering in the range of 14 trillions, the US is going to hit its debt ceiling in as early as March, according to the US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner.

If the United States Congress fails to lift the ceiling, he warned, there is a threat of an US default. Similarly, the US may also be forced to renege on its

obligations should it fail to roll over its debt. While still a very, very long shot, it is no longer unimaginable. Moreover, it is becoming clear that the most likely scenario under which the US is able to honour its sovereign debt obligations will involve continued money printing and a corresponding depreciation of the Dollar's value.

Right now, it might be too early for a verdict on the solvency of states that have issued too many municipal bonds. Some, like Deutsche Bank, say that municipal finance stands “on the cusp” of improvement, citing signs of recovery in the US economy. Since municipal bonds are strongly affected by macroeconomic indicators like GDP and employment rates, a rebound in performance of municipal bonds is likely if economic prospects improve in 2011.



Arizona has sold its landmark Capitol building to help repay its debts

Bank bonuses again rile politicians

It's that time of the year again: the banks have disclosed the size of their bonus pools and **Patrick O'Driscoll** thinks the public needs to know more before judging

Business theorist Frederick Winslow Taylor believed that performance related pay was the way to encourage production and efficiency. Investment Banks have been paying bonuses on Wall Street and the Wharf for decades.

Investment Banks are split into various departments: back, middle and front office. Bonuses are distributed amongst the entire company's employees - back office accounting, legal and technology, along with the Risk, Product Control, the middle office coders, and the front office business teams, research, trading and sales are all given a generous bonus each year. The people closest to the money are given the most generous bonus.

I once overheard a young lady saying if she got the same bonus the following year she would be able to retire in the Hamptons. The following March, the lady of Hampton wishes, was made redundant along with 40% of the sales force. Bankers are paid huge wads of cash because they live on risk, and turnover can be high for many roles that generate this cash. If we are going to bash bankers, we need to know who we are bashing and how to bash them!

Is an analyst programmer in the back office a banker? I would argue not but maybe he should be aware of what the work he is doing is contributing to. Most desks at investment banks these days are process desk, rarely is there proprietary trading occurring (where people invest their own money for the sake of making money), especially af-

“The evidence points to your average rich investor being better off if they just [...] leave their money in a high street account”

ter the Dodd-Frank act tries to deal with this. It is far from brain surgery, rocket science or any other intellectually challenging profession. The commissions charged would drop if more could offer the same services. Some hedge fund managers charge 10% of any return for the money you invest with them. Yet according to numerous academic articles and heuristic arguments they cannot beat the market.

According to CAPM, a theory invented in 1961 by academics and an old equation, a stock will generate returns above the market index in accordance with its risk. Desks will use this equation to help product control understand their risk that needs to be clearly explained to investors in financial statements.

If we assume that government bonds are risk free, a silly idea if you are European right now, this would mean that a stock will return more than a bond over a year in accordance with the company's risk. But most investors know this well, or do they? Studies have analysed fund managers returns along with their risk



The general impression of bankers rolling in wads of cash is only true of a small proportion of their staff

and the evidence points to your average rich investor being better off if they just invest in the FTSE 100 or leaving their money in a high street account. So apart from charity events and tips to waitresses do Fund Managers generate any value at all?

If this was common knowledge that many more hedge funds would go out of business more quickly, not many in London would have survived the credit crunch. The government is in a position of needing to persuade the public

that what they are doing is the best way to handle the bonus issue so that other corporations and individuals don't feel that they are being unfairly treated. But why not change the system and reward genuine innovation and make the rewards more longer term? Quick solutions don't exist.

If an analyst creates a new financial product reward him; if a Managing Director cuts costs whilst producing the same value reward him; but don't hand out bonuses to people because they gen-

erate above average returns for one year.

This encourages risk taking and an environment of cash grabbing. If employees were concentrating on their jobs and the process of generating value instead of the end of year bonus there would be less risk, happier employees and a less emotive public gang of banker bashers. At the same time, the corporate world and the public should realise that they will be unfairly treated by bankers until they understand what the banks actually do.

POLITICS

The world beyond College walls



China

Chinese President Hu Jintao has arrived in the Washington today, marking the start of a four day long state visit to the United States. President Hu is expected to discuss trade, currency and a host of other issues which include North Korea with President Obama. Chinese state media reported that President Hu would stress on how a constructive, comprehensive partnership between the powers could be mutually beneficial and help ensure worldwide stability. President Hu's visit is set amidst a backdrop of increasing trade tensions between the two powers with some US senators introducing a bill to penalise China for manipulating its currency, which critics say gives China an unfair advantage.



Tunisia

Three ministers have resigned from Tunisia's one day old unity Government. The three ministers come from the UGTT party which played a key role in ousting Mr.



Ben Ali from power. Many of the protestors were unhappy about the fact that several ministers from Mr. Ali's RCD party have kept their jobs. Riot police was deployed in central Tunis as people gathered to voice their dissatisfaction with the new Government and there were fresh riots in other parts of the country. Tunisia is in a state of civil unrest following widespread protests over corruption, high unemployment and high food prices which toppled Mr. Ben Ali. Other Arab leaders are watching events in Tunisia with concern amidst fears that they could inspire similar revolts in their countries.



Haiti

Human rights groups have urged the Haitian government to arrest and prosecute former President Jean-Claude Duvalier for abuses committed during his 1971-86 leadership. Mr Duvalier, who is commonly known as Baby Doc, inherited his father's regime at the age of 19 and stands accused of corruption, embezzlement and human rights abuses during his brutal rule which relied on a militia known as the tontons to maintain control of Haiti through fear and violence.

Edited by Kenneth Lee

Filibustering dinosaurs

James Lees

The chance of the country getting a referendum on the alternative vote system was held up in the Lords this week. The key point of contention is in the title of the bill discussed- 'The Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill' groups together reforms to the way we vote for MPs along with the number and borders of constituencies. At the time of writing, the bill was still not settled, although the front bench members were talking again.

Labour Peers object to the two issues being bundled into one piece of legislation, as they believe the government's plans to reduce the number of MPs would hit Labour disproportionately. However they say that if the bill were to be split, then the part concerning the change to the voting system could be passed much more quickly. Following clear messages from Cameron and Clegg that they were determined the bill would pass, it appeared that the Labour Peers would back down especially if modest concessions could be made on the size or number of constituencies.

Many Labour MPs approve of the alternative vote system, but object to the grouping with the change in constituencies and for some reason having the vote on the same day as local elections. The government argues it has paired the two issues together because both are about how MPs are elected to the House. A more cynical view would be that as the issues were linked in



"I have strong feelings on constituency boundary issues"

the coalition agreement they are both required to pass simultaneously for political purposes in holding the coalition together.

The Peers have rejected claims that they are filibustering the bill- wasting time until it is too late to pass the bill with time to organise the vote for May 5th. The accusations clearly had foundation especially after one Peer spent quite a while discussing the history of the Venerable Bede- a monk from the 7th century.

Nick Clegg, amongst others, accused Ed

Milliband of tactically using his "dinosaurs" in the Lords to prevent the public from deciding whether to change the voting system- another allegation that was vehemently denied.

It could also be said that some Peers are holding the bill up to show the government they won't just be a rubber stamp when it comes to changes to parliament - setting up the inevitable defiance for when Lib Dem hopes for a predominantly elected Lords make it as far.

Remembering the Holocaust

Andrea Levy

We are approaching a time when Holocaust survivors and other eye witnesses of the largest mass murder in modern history will no longer be alive. On Tuesday 25th January, it will be both an honour and a privilege to have Holocaust survivor Mrs Lily Ebert among us, to tell us her experiences, on the occasion of Holocaust Memorial Day.

From 1933 to 1945, Nazi Germany, headed by Adolf Hitler led the systematic persecution and murder of Jews, gypsies, the handicapped, homosexuals, Jehovah's witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents. People it considered politically, racially or socially "unfit".

It is the mission of Holocaust Memorial Day and of the dissemination of Lilly Ebert's story to advance and propagate the knowledge of this genocide. The aim is to preserve the memory of the millions who were murdered and to encourage reflection of the moral and spiritual questions raised by these events, as well as to recognise our responsibilities as students of a renowned university and citizens of democracy.

Remembering the Holocaust and listening to testimonies like Lilly Ebert's are a call to the conscience of our world. This massacre oc-

curred in the heart of Europe, in what was regarded as a civilised, modern nation. It was the consequence of the silence of people who followed orders without question. Who watched and did nothing. Pastor Martin Niemöller famously said,

"They came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for me and by that time no one was left to speak up."

It is by keeping alive the memory of what happened that we make sure we aren't the silent ones standing by, contributing to the suffering of others.

In 1945, nobody thought there would be another holocaust. Yet we have been and are witnesses to the persecution of people in Bosnia, Ruanda and Darfur because of their ethnicity.

Join us in order to learn a powerful lesson in the fragility of freedom and the need for vigilance in preserving democratic values.

We are the last generation who will be able to hear from a Holocaust survivor. Come while you can.

Holocaust survivor visits Imperial

Join IC Jewish Society for an increasingly rare opportunity that should not be missed: Holocaust Survivor, Mrs Lily Ebert at Imperial College.

In July 1944 Lilly Ebert was just 14 when she, her three sisters, brother and mother were herded into cattle-trucks and taken from their home in Hungary to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. Upon arrival Lilly was registered and tattooed with the number A-10572.

She will be talking about her experiences, followed by a Q&A session.

Tuesday 25th January, 6.00pm, Huxley Building LT130

For more info, contact jsoc@imperial.ac.uk

Optimism among the trouble in Tunisia

Andrew Purcell looks at how Tunisia became the unlikely scene for the Arab world's first popular revolution in over half a century

Andrew Purcell



Tunisia is a land of contrast. The panorama shown here is adjacent to one of the nation's busiest ports

Until last week, Tunisia, normally considered one of the more politically stable North African states, had had only two presidents since gaining independence from France in 1956. Now, following weeks of street protests and civil unrest, President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali's 23-year reign has come to an abrupt and unexpected end, leaving neighbouring Arab leaders fretting that the contagion may spread.

Over the last few days, in what is widely being dubbed the jasmine revolution, tanks have been deployed to protect government buildings and police have opened fire on protesters on several separate occasions. Human rights organisations estimate that around 50 protesters have been killed in total and looting and rioting have spread throughout the country. In the worst incident, a prison riot in the city of Monastir resulted in a fire which killed over 40 inmates. The police, who are generally viewed as little more than a corrupt presidential guard by ordinary Tunisians, have so far done little to prevent the looting. As a result, many local residents have resorted to forming *ad hoc* militia groups, armed with rocks and other rudimentary implements of defence, in order to protect their homes.

Tunisians are unhappy about high unemployment levels, food price infla-

tion, corruption, poor living conditions and a lack of freedom of speech. This December, their collective anger with the governing regime suddenly became united following Mohamed Bouazizi's desperate act of self immolation. There have since been copycat suicides in both Egypt and Algeria, and an Egyptian pop star has even written a song about Mr Bouazizi's martyrdom.

So far, the international reaction to the events in Tunisia has been, on the whole, positive. US President, Barack Obama, has said "I have no doubt that Tunisia's future will be brighter if it is guided by the voices of the Tunisian people". However, Paris' reaction to the crisis has been notable for its muted tone and the French government has come in for some pretty heavy criticism because of this. The cynics argue that the French simply have too many vested interests in the Tunisian economy and that this revolution, reported to have cost Tunisia about £1.3bn, is plainly seen as bad news for French national interests. However, the French could also be seen to have acted quite shrewdly. By showing few overt signs of support for the uprising, they have denied Ben Ali the chance of pulling a Mugabe and accusing the former colonial power of orchestrating the uprising by proxy.

Tunisia is an important trading partner, not only for France, but for the whole of the EU and its relative stabil-

ity over recent years has also made it a popular tourist destination. The current crisis has meant that over 3,000 Britons have had to be flown home and there are fears that the violence could have irreparably damaged the tourism industry upon which Tunisia is so heavily reliant. However, Tunisia has always been one of the Mediterranean's more exotic holiday destinations, a fact to which my own experience bears testament. Last year, I was travelling through the south of Tunisia, when the French tour bus I was on was attacked. We had been driving through the desert for hours when, suddenly, a large window pane came crashing down and a woman started screaming. Had we been shot at? We quickly tried to press ourselves against the floor. It was a brick, and it was followed by a barrage of rocks and men chasing us through the streets. Fortunately, some impressive evasive driving meant we were able to elude the attackers and make a dash for the safety of the local mayor's office. The Tunisians whom I later spoke to about these events unanimously shrugged them off as fairly unremarkable. They explained that the frustration generated by the lack of employment opportunities available meant that such attacks have become commonplace, particularly in the underdeveloped south.

Now that an interim government has been put in place by Prime Minister

Mohammed Ghannouchi, it is hoped that the situation in Tunisia will begin to calm down. However, many Tunisians are disappointed by the prominent role the RCD, the party of the former president, remains set to play. Immediately following the announcement of the new government on Monday evening, a crowd gathered outside of the Tunisian

"The Dictator is gone, but not the dictatorship"

embassy here in South Kensington.

Medhi Boujomaa, an office worker, who has been living in exile for over 20 years, said "the dictator is gone, but not the dictatorship". Habib Ben Gharbia, a 22-year-old student said "the whole of the governing party is responsible for the corruption and we don't want people from this party in the new government". Mr Ben Gharbia believes that there are too many corrupt individuals in and around the government who "know they will be judged by the people of Tunisia". "They know that if this revolution succeeds it will be the end for them – they have nothing to lose".

The protestors, who continuously chanted "No more RCD, no more one party rule", were also quick to acknowl-

edge the role social media had played in this revolution. Noura Ellgoulli, a management consultant born in Tunis, said "Facebook and Twitter have meant that, for the first time, all Tunisians can be on the same page." "When the shooting started, it was because of social media that the people got to know that the presidential guard were turning on their own people". Ms Ellgoulli accused the presidential guard of using "pre-meditated scorched Earth tactics" to destroy what was left of Tunisia's wealth. She said: "Basically there are around 800 men in the presidential guard who are willing to sacrifice their lives in order to prevent the people of Tunisia gaining true democratic rights".

Yet, despite fears that some of the old regime may try and cling to power in the new government, the mood of the crowd was generally one of optimism. Ms Ellgoulli proclaimed "this is the first time I can be proud of being Tunisian". Another protestor said that she felt "reborn" and Chahin Rouhini, an 11-year-old boy from Hampstead School in Cricklewood, simply put it like this: "Ben Ali has been trying to steal everything that is precious to the Tunisian people, – I'm so happy he's gone".

Amira Ben Rejel, a young female protestor, said it was important to remember that "this is not a revolution carried out by Islamists or socialists... this is a revolution for all of the Tunisian people".

Comment Editors: **Anna Perman**
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COMMENT

FELIX

8am lectures? No thanks

A College committee, the unimaginatively named 'working group on the extension of the College Day', is investigating a number of changes to the timetable, which, if implemented, would change Imperial for the worse. The proposals are to extend post-graduate teaching to 8pm on Mondays and Thursdays, extend undergraduate teaching to 8am-7pm on Mondays and Thursdays, reduce the lunch break to only one hour and to offer humanities options in the evenings from 6pm-8pm.

The motivation for these ideas seems simple enough. There is a finite amount of space on campus and a great deal of demand for that space. The task of timetabling the myriad classes, activities and lectures that occur on campus is extremely difficult and certainly unenviable.

It's tempting to think that with an extra hour here or there, the immense task of juggling all of the competing demands for space would be made substantially easier. Perhaps it would, but what is clear is that such a change, however tempting it may be, would throw up a host of needless and potentially insuperable problems.

Take the idea of having 8am lectures. Most students at Imperial live 30 minutes or more from campus, which means that a conscientious student hoping to be 10 minutes early would need to wake up between 6-7am. That's assuming that all Imperial students are so punctual. It is well known that 9am lectures are rather poorly attended when compared to those in the afternoon. This effect would only be exaggerated at 8am. And what of the lecturer? Many live much further from campus than their students. Can it actually be expected that they will leave their families at 6am, maybe 5am, to teach a lecture that will only be sparsely attended by their students?

Admittedly, this is the worst of the proposals, but the others are open to similarly unfortunate interpretations. Lectures later in the day would reduce the availability of departmental rooms for use by Clubs & Societies while those athletic students who are committed to their sports team would increasingly face the difficult choice between skipping their lectures or missing out on participating in a sport that they love.

The College must of course innovate and be unafraid to make changes where they bring about a positive outcome. Blue-sky thinking should be encouraged and the demand on space on campus is a problem that requires an imaginative solution. Admittedly, Felix does not have the magic solution. But the status quo is far preferable to the Imperial that would be created by these proposals. They are, as they stand, deeply unimaginative, unjustified, and to the detriment of both students or staff. They should be rejected.

Repainting the plan

Soumaya always followed her life plan, but an aimless artist type has made her reconsider if she really needs to



Soumaya Mauthoor

I passed my viva a few months ago. The day before my 27th birthday, coincidentally. This should have marked the beginning of the next stage in my life but I now feel strangely confused, unable to move on. Where is my life going and all that? I'm hoping this article will have a cathartic effect. Writing for my former university paper to help me move on might seem ironic but this is not some purely ego-maniacal exercise. I'm sure others are going through a similar experience, or will go through it on graduating from university. So this article is dedicated to you.

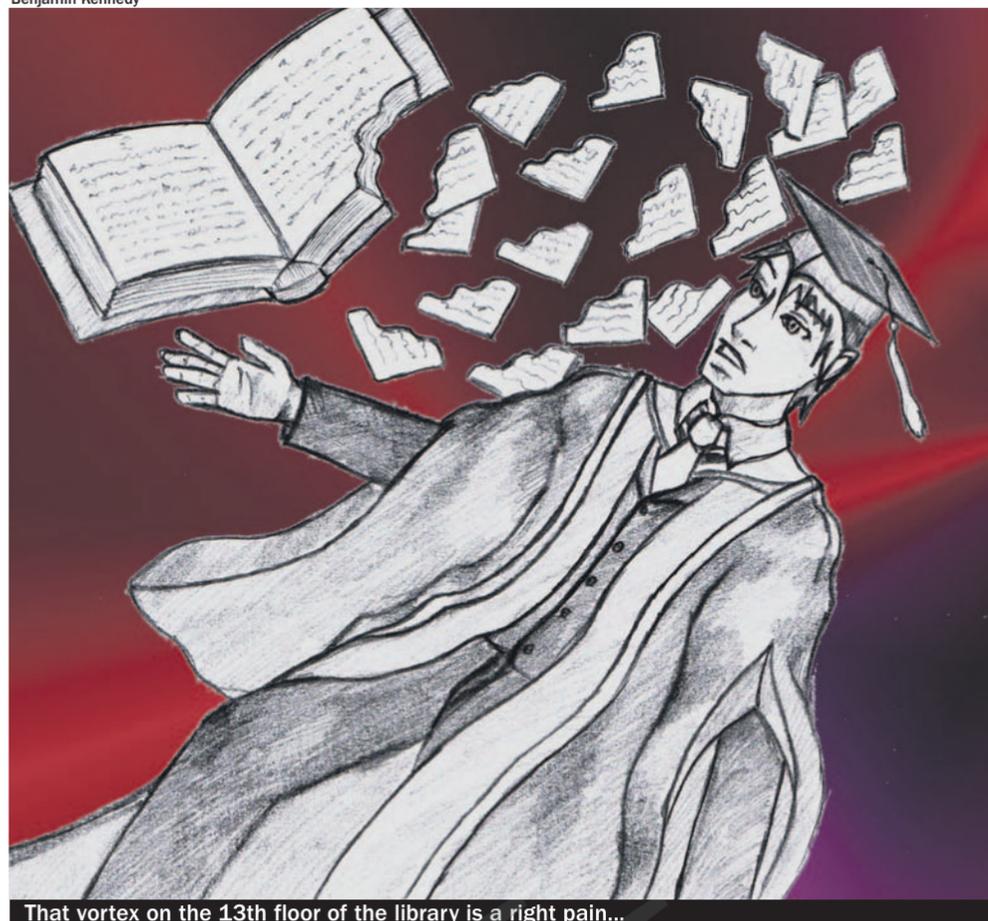
First a small digression. You may have noticed the bright set of abstract paintings on the ground floor of the central library. These were donated by an artist named Bob Brighton. A plaque situated opposite the library helpdesk states that "since becoming a professional artist in 1983 he [Bob Brighton] has given most of his work away and lived a frugal existence on the dole." This plaque flummoxed me. Here was Imperial, promoting this guy who's decided to completely break with the system, forget about remuneration and live on the dole instead, and proclaim it proudly too. I know the paintings came for free, but what the hell was Imperial thinking?!

Now me, I have always lived to the system. I worked hard on my equations, did lots of extra-curricular activities and I kept my weight in check. I had a Plan; I was going to be an academic. The work is interesting, can have some higher purpose and it's cool telling people you're a physicist. I wasn't looking to be the next Lord Robert Winston, just somebody respected in my field. Maybe my own research group in some former polytechnic. That's "The Plan". Not much, but I do have to keep things realistic.

But now it seems that I just can't be bothered.

Academics work hard. I mean really hard. Forget Saturdays for the next few years if you want to get that permanent

Benjamin Kennedy



That vortex on the 13th floor of the library is a right pain...

post at some time in the future. And even after that it doesn't get much easier if you want to be half-successful. And it's the same for the other jobs I have been looking into; teaching, software engineering, management consultancy... Do I really want all that hassle?

I am currently working as a tutor. Working just one day a week is enough for a frugal but stress-free existence, à la Bob Brighton. And it seemed to work out just fine for him. Sometimes I want to hit my head against a wall if the kid is particularly dense but they usually improve with time. Most importantly, tutoring gives me all the time in the world to do what I really want to do. I'm still working out exactly what that is; as you can see I have a problem with decision-making.

But being a tutor wasn't part of "The Plan"! And it's not a real career! (no disrespect to career tutors out there). And there's the British taxpayers I have to consider. They kindly paid for my university education out of their pocket, surely I owe it to them to get a job that (a) uses the scientific and analytical skills they equipped me with to serve the British economy and (b) is in the higher tax-

I have always lived to the system. I worked hard on my equations, did lots of extra-curricular activities. I had a Plan; I was going to be an academic.

band? It did make me think about the whole university fee thing, whether it's such a bad idea after all. In theory, with the current system I wouldn't need to reimburse the fees until I earned a certain amount but you get my drift.

It's not like I haven't tried. I have filled in a couple of job applications. There's also some papers my supervisor wants me to write on my research, which should make me more employable. But the energy and ambition isn't there anymore. Reading Bob Brighton's plaque didn't suddenly shatter "The Plan" (that would be silly). It just proved there were so many options out there, and not necessarily conventional ones. I just don't know.

COMMENT

The opinions expressed on the Comment pages represent the views of the author only.

The importance of being idle



Rhys Davies

For a long time, I've tried to live life in the fast lane – even occasionally overtaking on the central reservation – but it's only recently that I've come to realise why.

Even when I was young, my parents would complain that I had ants in my pants. Apart from a rather unfortunate picnic, that wasn't literally true, but I always had to keep moving. In college, out of college, even when I'm home, I just don't feel right unless I'm doing something. As a consequence, I have an embarrassingly clean room. The really lurid secret is that I intentionally make a mess of it just so I can tidy up again.

At first, I thought I had been drugged. I feared someone had swapped my Canderel tablets for ProPlus pills. It was only after I added them to my double espresso, and my heart didn't explode that I realised that I was safe. I didn't sleep for a week but at least I was alive.

Next, I considered that maybe it was just a natural reaction. This world of ours is chock-full of so many awesome and amazing things and, given the finite amount of time that I have, I can't af-

ford to stop and smell the roses. I like to procrastinate in reverse – why do today what you could've done yesterday. Even in my pitifully small corner of the cosmos, there are so many interesting things to see and do that it would be a waste to let any of them slip by.

But that isn't quite the whole of it.

There was one day last term where it finally clicked. Here is how I remember it. It starts at 7am with a morning full of medical student stuff – taking histories, drawing blood, avoiding Daily Mail reporters, then lunch with my girlfriend. Back to campus where I plaster everything that doesn't move with posters for an upcoming event, dipping in and out of the library as I do so. Afterwards, I go to the gym to pump my (negligible) guns. I finally go home at 8pm, but still no rest for the wicked – or me. I help my house-mate prepare for a small group presentation. When he goes to write up, I ring home. Something of a mistake – my Mum could talk the hind legs off 2.3 metric Blackpools of donkeys. At 11pm, I finally sit down to dinner but my day is still not over – I still have an article to write for Felix and there is a rather

immediate deadline looming. I sit down, do the research and write the piece until 2am.

Quite a full day by anyone's measure. I have enjoyed every minute but it's finally time for sleep. I'm just about to bed down with my nightcap and a glass of warm milk when something ticks over in my mind. It's bin day tomorrow. Wearily, I trudge downstairs and out into the back garden to empty the bins.

And I stop.

It's a clear night and the moon is full. The air is still and it seems like the whole world is quiet. The black bags and I are bathed in moonlight and I am genuinely awestruck by the serenity and stillness of the moment. It's beautiful.

This is why I run up escalators. This is why I eat lunch standing up. This is why I appear in photos as a vague Rhys-shaped blur. It's because in the constant buzz, the triumphant brass band, of the 25 hour life, it is easy to forget that you have the option to just...stop.

I highly recommend you try it some time. Take five minutes out of your busy schedules and enjoy a little slice of tranquillity.

“It is easy to forget that you have the option to just... stop”

TV license to kill your patience



Angry Geek

The television licensing people and I are playing a game. The rules of the game are pretty simple. The first player – that's me – abides by all known laws this side of the Mars-Jupiter asteroid belt. The second player – Grand Duke John Hales of the London South West Enforcement Division – simply has to send a letter to me every month asking if I've broken any laws yet. Simple game.

Mr. Hale's opening gambit this week was the TV Licensing equivalent of the “When did you stop beating your wife?” poser: a letter expressing a desire for me to “have the information you may need before a hearing is set at your local court”. Is this a cheap way for Angry Geek to boost his ratings, with a quick legal battle to sell to the tabloids? Of course it's bloody not. I'm not going to court, is why.

The letter is full of the most exquisite wording, with all the subtlety of an elephant-based strip parlour operating underneath a nunnery. But not once does it say that I'm going to court, of course. It's just a friendly factbook should that happen, complete with info on what I can take into court. If you're wondering what these tips consist of, it's things like “You can take a lawyer in to court!”

and “The chap in the funny wig is the boss man!”, all bullet-pointed and reading like hints from a video game load screen. All it's missing is a little stick-man rendition of Deputy Chief Admiral Of Pain John Hales, pointing towards the words ‘court’ and ‘enforcement’ and winking at the reader. Maybe a speech bubble insinuating something about ‘accidents’.

I don't watch television. I don't watch television because even if it wasn't full of utter shite these days, the rare moments of brilliance it does have are usually on at times when I'm busy doing other things – reading papers, spiking the sushi in the JCR, writing Angry Geek/Felix Hangman fanfiction – and so I'm forced to watch it online later. Why would that be a surprise these days anyway, given that I'm connected to the Internet? There are animated gifs of cats sitting on robotic hoovers that are worth more than ITV's entire seasonal output.

Anyway, I've calmed down since discovering that people far crazier than I have been posting about John Hales for over four years on internet message boards, with the most sane posts being entire drafts of legal writs filed against him for defamation of character, and the least sane debating whether or not he really exists at all (complete with

signature comparisons for post- and pre-2008, like a low-grade CSI set on the District Line). The moment where a man looks at these websites and wonders if they might have a point, as I did only yesterday evening, is the moment he takes a long hard look at himself and realises this madness has gone far enough. Look at it from John's perspective. All day he's signing these fricking letters. He probably doesn't even care. And there are people out there debating whether or not he even exists. That's got to get to you.

So I've torn up my hastily drafted response along with the illustrative ten-step guide to the rather obscene processes the letter laid out in words, and instead I'm going to write back to him with a factbook of my own. I was thinking maybe a walkthrough to Pokemon Gold and Silver, or a recipe for some kickass Rocky Road I had made for me at the weekend.

I'll let you know how he replies. If you're reading this John, no hard feelings. Here's to next month's thinly veiled threat.

**Do you definitely not want to not not go to non-court? Don't write in immediately to...
anangrygeek@googlemail.com**

“The letter is full of the most exquisite wording, with all the subtlety of an elephant-based strip parlour”

Battersea is full of chavs... and Imperial College students

Has this College gone mad? A block of PhD student flats called Griffon Studios is being built in the dodgy part of Battersea – an area saturated with chavs. And apparently the landlord has the nerve to charge £235/week for a room no bigger than a shipping container!

Imperial obviously doesn't have a clue. Griffon Studios is a typical example of ineffective decision making by the management of our university who just don't give understand that students aren't made of money. The average PhD student will earn £15,300/annum, so at £235/week on rent they are left with £3080 spending money. No amount of waffle can hide that plain fact.

Students find themselves in a lot of financial trouble these days. First, there was that awful Clegg chap breaking his pledge on tuition fees. Reminder to politicians, if you hold up a big bit of cardboard with a promise on it, next to your signature on it, people will notice when you don't keep that promise. Then there was that dreadful creep Osborne's VAT rise. By the way, did you know that sanitary towels are subject to VAT? As if sanitary towels aren't a freaking necessity!!!

So that's the ridiculous world that we live in. You would think that we could escape such madness within the confines of our university, but sadly not. Instead of helping postgraduates find affordable accommodation, we have Griffon Studios.

Why haven't they created a flat-sharing scheme instead? Or built halls further outside central London? Ah well, it is a damned ‘business opportunity’ after all. I would urge you all to not buy into it – even if you can miraculously afford it – you will be paying too much for the risk of being stabbed nightly.

The College has guaranteed that 97% of the rooms will be occupied. Well, let them sell the rooms to other universities when they inevitably don't meet this guarantee with Imperial students. I couldn't wish any better on those mongs from UCL...

Disgruntled Postgraduate

Comment Editors: **Anna Perman**
Jan Piotrowski

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

COMMENT

Science doesn't play by its own rules

Happy 450th birthday Francis Bacon! In case you didn't know, it's thanks to him that you are studying here, and that science exists as it does. It was he who said that we should make observations and draw from them the physical laws which govern our planet. He also wrote that as scientific minds, we should work to free ourselves from 'idols', the social and professional biases which are part of being human. Our minds must be pure and rational before we can draw accurate conclusions about the world. The scientific method that we all follow started with him. The problem is, he was wrong about quite a few things.

First of all, the scientific method doesn't quite work like that. Plenty of people over the years have found fault with his 'scientific method', but it's not their birthday and I don't have much space, so I'm not going to bore you with their theories.

No, what I'm interested in is the idea that we can ever truly free ourselves from 'the idols'. Many people think of science as a rational movement, uninfluenced by wider society. Scientists should be blind to race, gender and social status, and success in science should be down to merit alone.

I don't mind telling you, and I'm sure you can guess from my name, that I'm a woman. There aren't many of us in science and there certainly aren't many of us at Imperial, so try not to get too flustered.

Eureka, the Times science magazine recently looked into why there are so few women in the upper echelons of science. It's true we are under-represented high up in most fields, but science seems to be particularly bad. I can't believe this is due to being less academically able. I look around my friends and I find women to be just as hard-working and intelligent as guys.

During my biology degree, most of my lecturers were men. They shared ideas, collaborated on papers and went to the pub together. Female academics were few and far between and didn't seem to fit into the blokey structure of the department.

Science is an incredibly sociable field; we spend a lot of time working together in labs, sharing ideas in seminars and networking at conferences. Any scientific paper involves collaborations between several scientists – take a look at a report from CERN and you'll find it is mostly just a list of the authors, with a bit of data tacked on the end. Scientists do not work alone.

I think we are reluctant to accept that we might not be a completely rational meritocracy. But before science can find an equal balance between men and women, we need to accept that we are not isolated from social pressures. Sorry Francis, but we can never completely escape the idols.

By **Anna Perman**

We are told that climate change is the most dangerous threat to the world today, but as measures to combat it stall, the question is...



SHOULD WE WORRY ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?



Charles Betts

The end of the world always seems to be approaching. The Millennium Bug was supposed to turn every computer on the planet mental, activating every nuclear bomb and killing us all on verse two of Auld Lang Syne. The UK chief medical officer told us in 2005 that bird flu would wipe out 50,000 of us Brits. And now we are all going to fry unless we recycle, turn the TV stand-by light off, and use a bag for life.

Climate change is a new religion. We're led to believe that unless we put all our paper and plastic into separate bags, the entire world will flood and Al Gore will be in a very smug I-told-you-so mood. People that dare question climate change are treated like non-believers, in the same way religions mock one another.

Yet there is ignorance about climate change on both sides of the debate. I bet Samuel Furse, supporting climate change to my right, regularly goes to his local health store to buy organic nuts and dried fruit flown in from Brazil. And weather statistics can be distorted by either side – what if I told you that since 1998, the average temperature of the earth has shown no discernible warming?

Global summit upon global summit is spent harping on about how governments need to unite to fight this problem. What is the carbon footprint of flying the politicians to the talks? And for what? So that they can agree that something needs to be done, but not until some later date in the future? They are effectively saying that they don't believe in any of it, but need to placate the media.

The whole thing removes valuable resources from more immediate and concrete issues, such as people trafficking, developing nations' infrastructure, and developing an HIV vaccination. Governments should not pretend that climate change is a special case.

Implementing a green tax is simply a political ruse to get more money with minimal effort. I cannot believe that it would ever be popular to the majority of the population.

I do, however, see the benefit of a less polluted city. And a quieter one too. If introducing electric cars can help that, then excellent. I also like to pay less for my utility bills. So if using less gas saves me money, then great. And I understand the benefits of energy independence, so if nuclear power helps achieve that, fantastic. But don't insult my intelligence by making me pay more tax if I want to drive a gas guzzler, or fly to Hawaii, simply on the premise that it will delay the end of the world by another year.

“People that question climate change are treated like non-believers”

A lot of rubbish is talked about climate change. A lot of work goes into the science of climatology, and there are a great many aspects to what this can mean. I am a biological chemist, so I tend to start from this perspective. It is as good as any, and provides an entry into understanding the physical aspects of climatology as well as the biological ones.

What is undeniable about human activity is that it has greatly increased atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations. The burning of wood, coal, gas, oil, have all contributed to this. The loss of trees and plants has also greatly reduced an ecosystem's ability to absorb this excess carbon dioxide. Although a rise in algae numbers might offset this, we are left with a net increase in the carbon dioxide. Studies by Lovelock et al., quoted in a recent documentary on his life's work suggest, that this increase might be as much as 6%. This may sound like very little, but could have big consequences. The hole in the ozone layer (now repaired) was caused by a much smaller reduction in the percentage of ozone.

Let us change tack for a minute, and look at this from another angle. Geologists have found evidence for several ice ages over the last 500 million years. This we understand from three perspectives; paleontological evidence based upon the movement of fossils, chemical evidence based on storage of radio isotopes and geological evidence based on the characteristic impact of ice on sedimentary rock.

All of these point to a cyclical change between warmer and colder periods on Earth. What is perhaps more surprising is that we are 'overdue' for an ice age, and have been for several thousands of years. What has stopped it? Well if we assume that an ice age has been prevented because things have not been warm enough (controversial I know) we must look for reasons for that. A small increase in carbon dioxide could well be it. Certainly there is plenty of evidence for carbon dioxide being a good retainer of heat. The atmosphere of the planet Venus is 96.5% carbon dioxide and has a surface temperature of 460°C – hotter than Mercury, a planet much nearer the sun.

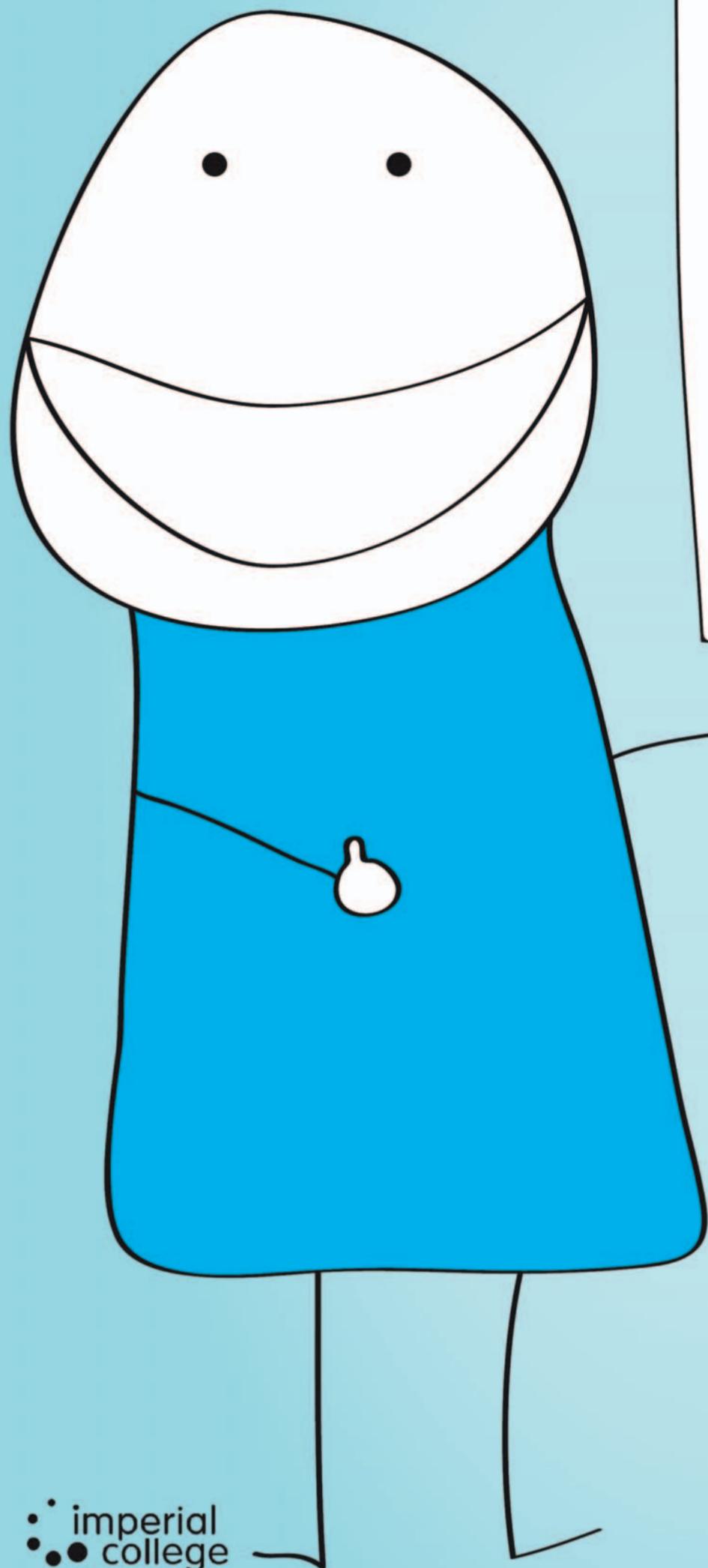
So, there is evidence that climate change has happened, but that does not necessarily mean an apocalypse. Of course we do not want too much heat, otherwise we would face a myriad of problems that might well kill us and quite a lot of everything else too. But, without warming, the Earth might well be deep into a -20°C ice age today which would also kill us all off.



Samuel Furse

“A 6% increase may sound like very little but could have big consequences”

Make a note in your diary.



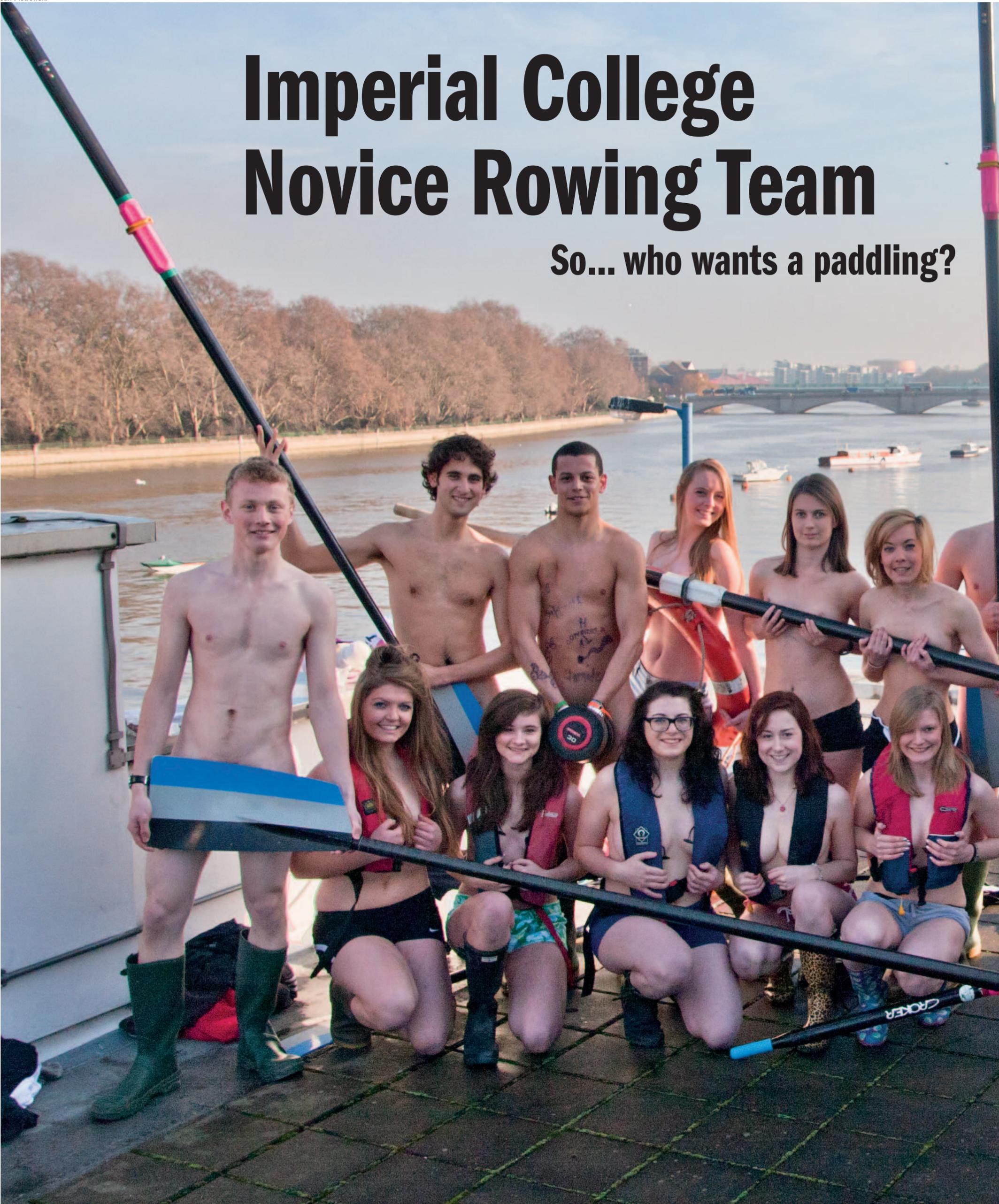
FEBRUARY 2011

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28						

Sabbatical
Elections
2011

Imperial College Novice Rowing Team

So... who wants a paddling?





Do you want to do a centrefold? Email felix@imperial.ac.uk

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

What's On

Oxfam Talk



Duncan Green, Head of Research at Oxfam UK

Want to learn a little more about the issues affecting international development in an ever-changing world?

On Tuesday 25th January, Duncan Green, the Head of Research at Oxfam UK, will be giving a talk at Imperial College in Chem Eng. LT1 at 6pm, hosted by Engineers Without Borders Imperial.

This April sees the launch of a new Oxfam global campaign entitled 'Food justice in a resource constrained world'.

Duncan will be promoting this new campaign and Imperial students are invited to come and listen to the talk and join in the discussion afterwards. Debate is welcome about where international development is headed in the near future as well as the problems faced by both developing countries themselves and organisations such as Oxfam.

Having learned about the impact of politics in poverty stricken nations whilst working as a journalist in South America, Duncan has been researching and writing about those less well off for nearly 30 years. Nowadays, as well as working on research for Oxfam, he has recently written the book 'From Poverty to Power'. This collaborative text gets a 21st century perspective on the issue of inequality in poorer countries. The book aims to promote realistic solutions to restoring the balance of power for the average family from a political and economic standpoint.

This talk is a great opportunity for anyone interested in development to learn about the current global situation and how we may help to establish a world of equal opportunity from an expert in the field.

Also on the 8th February at 6pm, the Global Poverty Project (GPP) will be presenting their '1.4 Billion Reasons' presentation. Founded by a team from the 'Make Poverty History' campaign, the presentation aims to encourage small changes in our daily lifestyle to help alleviate extreme poverty. Those wishing to attend can register here: <http://www.global-povertyproject.com/events/attend/37100126>

James Hook

Simon Federer



CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Ski Trip spots Super Cow shredding up the slopes! By Elisabeth Burks

On the last week of the holidays it was time for Imperial College students to hit the slopes in Val Thorens! Two busloads of students spent 22 hours travelling to the Alps on New Year's Day, most still suffering from the revelries of the night before. However, duty free alcohol and a port to port challenge tempted people back over to the dark side with one bus having a bit too much fun – and as the trip's Worried Mum, I was called in to clean up the mess!

Having arrived safely, with rental pick up, and checked in to our cosy quarters it was soon time for us to check out the local. So, dressed to impress in some delightful Christmas jumpers, a 'calm' night ended for most in the wee hours of the morning. Still, long nights out does not lead to lazy days on this trip and it was early starts all round to hit the slopes! It's safe to say that despite the snow blizzard that affected most of Europe, well, there wasn't much up the mountain! Sure it was great piste skiing, but off piste the snow was already shredded with rocks lying bare. Yet with 140km of piste in Val Thorens and over 600km in all three valleys – there was still plenty to do and see.

Tuesday night was the night that will go down in history for IC Snowsports – Imperial students took over a bar! Yes! I know! How? Well, you know the classic fancy dress theme Cowboys vs. Indians? It's dated and quite frankly not P.C. So on this historical night, we went to a lovely place called Moo Bar as Cowboys vs. Cows. There was some serious effort put into the costumes which inspired some spontaneous rodeo, cow congas, pole dancing, moshing and some awesome dance moves (milking the udders/grazing the grass).

Back on the slopes and in true Imperial style, people were using their smart phones to clock their speed down runs.

Luckily, we had rules in place for this and any 'Imperial' (i.e. nerdy) comments were reprimanded. All in all it was going well, the beginners were making progress and there were some totally rad moves being thrown in the park – can anyone say 5? – gnarly man, we're all totally stoked! Some horrifically awesome retro ski wear was also spotted in the park cruising alongside Super Cow. A brief moment of silence is required here for our injured – one broken leg and a tragic incident with broken glass being left lying around a club ended up with two hospital visits. However, neither were put off the sport nor clubbing. By midweek it was established that the committee did not have food poisoning (attributed to the infamous 'poo beers') but had the resort's stomach bug virus. Call in our only medic Dr. Simon! Oh wait he's ill.. How bout back-up option Dr. Saftey? Nope he's ill, too. I'd like to take this opportunity to apologise if we brought it back with us and it disrupts your January Exams...

The final night saw us to the Mountain Meal. This is basically meat fondue, lots of wine, some half-naked dancing followed by an epic ski down the green slope back to the apartments. Now, most can handle this night. Some can even ski down with another person standing on their skis – quite a skill. However, there are always exceptions. The sight of one skier and one snowboarder getting clothe-lined by a face-height fence was enough to send those watching into a fit of hysterics! Look for those with red fence marks on their faces for the culprits. It was dark!! The last night was also the event of the Felix centrefold photo, which if it's not been published will be Snowsport's second rejection for too much nudity. If you are feeling that sinking feeling of missing out, there's Easter's trip coming up and also next year's January trip which promises to be even bigger!

Simon Federer



You know you love the pun on the opposite page...

Young Scientists' Symposium 2010

ICSMSU Muslim Medics host another successful evening of academic prowess

Aamir Shamsi

The School of Medicine has always maintained the importance of research within the medical field both as a student and once we graduate. On Tuesday 23rd November ICSMSU Muslim Medics showcased the academic research achievements of Imperial students from all years. The tough competition from 6 high-class presentations was indicative of the fact that the Young Scientist's Symposium (YSS), now in its 4th year, had established itself as a renowned symposium for medical students.

The lecture hall was packed out with Imperial students from all years as well as year 12 and 13 students that were invited from the hugely successful PotMed that took place in September. We were extremely privileged to have on our judging panel Dr Laki Buluwela, a reader in molecular biology, Dr Ken MacLeod, a reader in cardiac physiology, and as our head judge, Professor Chris Tang, a researcher in infectious diseases. All three judges had been lecturers within our first two years of Medicine and so it only seemed apt that we invite such honourable members of the medical school that the presenters, and the rest of us, would not only know but also regard as role models and people from whom we can learn a great deal. In our company as a fourth judge we also had Mohammed Al-Hairi, last year's audience winner, which was indeed a pleasure for us all.

These final six contestants were to give an eight minute presentation on their particular research topic followed by a maximum seven minutes of questions and answers from both the judging panel and the audience alike. At the end the judges would deliberate who they thought was the best presenter based on criteria of appearance, structure, scientific knowledge, delivery and evaluation. In addition, the audience would vote too on who they thought delivered the best presentation. The challenge was to deliver very advanced research to an audience mainly made up of a younger community that had little experience in the chosen fields in such a manner that was both engaging and refreshing. The judges' winner would an engraved glass trophy and the audience winner would receive a £20 Waterstones voucher.

The excitement was brewing more and more as Dr MacLeod was ending his presentation on the importance of medical students to get involved in re-

Bilal Sahib



search from an early stage; the audience were awaiting the first presentation and our excellent chair, Samee Siddiqui, not only welcomed the proceedings in a confident and motivating manner but also eased the nerves with some of his best jokes – undoubtedly the crowd's favourite was remarking upon the effectiveness of Dr Buluwela's presentation on how to give an effective presentation.

The topics covered in the ninety minutes showed an insight into the different areas of medicine such as David Bargiela's presentation on the role of astrocytes in multiple sclerosis, Harsh Bhatt's presentation on unexpected stimuli affecting saccadic latency and ethnic marketing science, an area never discussed before at the symposium, delivered by Atif Khan. In the end there was very little separating the best two presentations of the evening: Bharat Pahilwani's fascinating talk on using cortisol to monitor hydrocortisone replacement and Renam Khan's intriguing and refreshing look at predicting post-operative pain outcomes, with the former winning the audience vote and the latter deservedly being crowned Young Scientist's Symposium 2010 winner by the judges.

For me the highlight of the evening was not the enthralling presentations, the chair's best lines or even the tasty snacks, although all three were excellent in their own right, but the heart warming brother and sisterhood that took place at the end between the contestants once

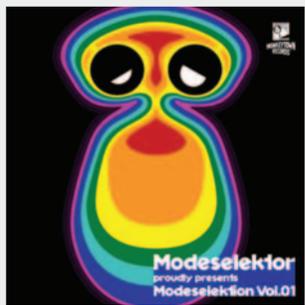
the results were announced. Normally at Imperial we see fellow colleagues leaving no stone unturned to be the best of the best whether it comes to passing examinations, winning awards or getting work published. And because of this competitiveness, that most probably arises from the fact that striving to be top is part of the norm, we tend to overlook others' achievements and success and sometimes even our own if it doesn't match up to others'. But if you were to be there at the end you would have seen all the contestants not only congratulating the winners but themselves too for they all have succeeded in delivering excellent presentations; a point emphasised by Professor Chris Tang at the end. And this is exactly what YSS aims to achieve: unity and a celebration of achievement amongst all students of this medical school.

Another thing to point out is how the contestants were not just from 5th year like the majority of previous symposiums, but ranged all the way from final year to second year. Special mention must go to Neha Panda, a second year medic, who took part in research before she attended the medical school – which completely encapsulates the Imperial students' enthusiasm to achieve and advance not only their careers but the quality of life in the community which without doubt will be the foundations of a successful healthcare service brought by the next generation: our generation.

MUSIC

Music Editors: **Greg Power**
Luke Turner
Christopher Walmsley
music.felix@gmail.com

Album of The Week



Modeselektion
Modeselektor presents
Modeselektion
Vol. 1
Monkeytown
2010

Modeselektor are bringing the bass and techno from Berlin to the big wide world in a cautious but thought-through way, this isn't to say they hang about when it comes to the thumping electro straining the notes through the dance-driven drum beats, just that they really think about the structure of a dance song. Clean staccato buzzes and echoing taps and clicks keep the album running through its ten tracks, adding in swooping waves of raw electricity which can be predicted on the horizon but still wash over you when they arrive. If there was un-techno-like techno, it would be this, blurring the lines between genres, the music is emotive but simple and will certainly rumble your inner bass. **Luke Turner**

Most listened to this week by Felix Music members on last.fm

1. Kanye West
2. The xx
3. Daft Punk
4. Radiohead
5. Muse
6. Caribou
7. Biffy Clyro
8. LCD Soundsystem
9. Arcade Fire
10. Gorillaz

Join in at: <http://www.last.fm/group/Felix+Music>

Make sure not to miss

Coachella 2011

Empire Polo Field in Indio, California (USA)
April 15-17 2011

Okay, so it isn't in this country and it's still a while a way, but at least that means you can get a cheap(ish) flight if you book now. And God would it be worth it. **Coachella** is acclaimed as one of the best festivals in the world, and just one quick look at this year's line-up is enough to make your eyes water and your knees shake. Imagine getting to see **The Arcade Fire, Crystal Castles, Animal Collective, Robyn, Titus Andronicus, The National, Cee-Lo, HEALTH, The Kills, The Black Keys, The Chemical Brothers...** and Kanye Motherfriggin' West all in the same place. Add to that bolting up-and-comers like **Odd Future** and the long awaited return of **The Strokes** and you've got a line-up to die for. There's a surprise too: a set by lords of noise Death From Above 1979, reuniting for the event. **Greg Power**

Felix Music Night

Coming to Metric on Saturday 19th February!

19.02
Metric (ICU)
February 19th 2011

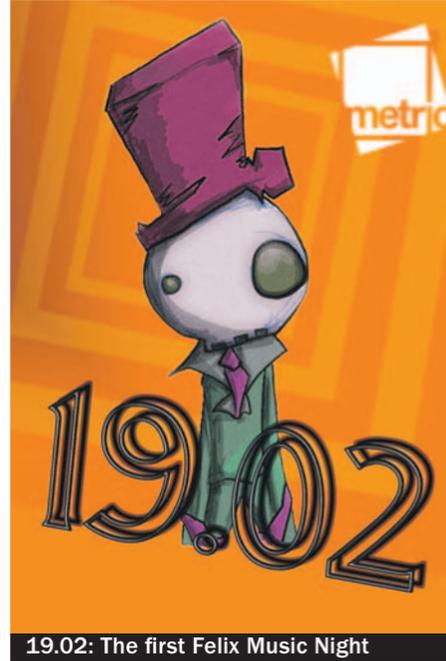
Felix Music Editors

Students of Imperial College, UNITE! Sorry, I've always wanted to say that.

We're throwing a party at Imperial College's very own Union live music venue and all around super-club, **Metric**, on **Saturday 19th February**. It will feature a showcase of Imperial's musical talent, featuring three live bands from **Jazz' Rock Soc** and three electronic acts from **Music Tech**, alongside a handful of DJs.

It will be a celebration of our local musical scene, where young men and women are balancing their degrees with providing balls awesome on-stage entertainment. A golden opportunity to bond with other music-lovers, share a drink and make new acquaintances. There'll be laughter, there'll be music, and most importantly there'll be you, my friend. Along with all my other friends, and all your other friends.

Luke Tomlin



19.02: The first Felix Music Night

Since its refurbishment, Imperial's live venue **Metric** has become an amazing venue, that we believe could easily rival with clubs like **Fabric**, except with much, much cheaper drinks. However to make the most of these awesome resources at our disposal, we think it's cooler to let Imperial's own budding artists perform there for you. This is why we are inviting you to come check out **19.02**, the first **Felix Music Night**.

We have some great performances lined up for you, and with the variety of acts on the bill we can guarantee there will be at least one group that will tickle your fancy.

Over the next four issues we'll be presenting the people who will be performing at **19.02** and reviewing some of their performances around London as we build up to the event. We begin next week with an interview of alt-rockers **The Vetoos**, the night's headliners.

So keep checking the Music pages, and look out for the nifty posters around campus, featuring a sick design by **Luke Tomlin**.

We continue Charlotte Ridler's chronicles of gigging off the beaten track with three kick-ass music venues

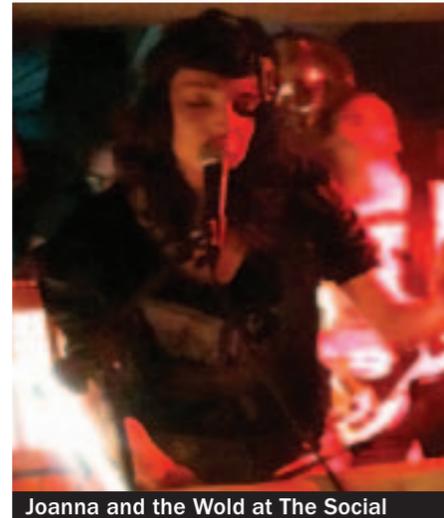
ATTICS & BASEMENTS

Tucked away down side streets, in basements and attics away from the crowds, small gig venues give you the opportunity to see the bands that will be playing the big venues in a year or two's time up close and personal at a fraction of the price. Here are a few of the best ones:

The Social:
5 Little Portland Street

Tucked away in a little backstreet off Oxford Street, The Social is a tiny venue with an upstairs diner bar area where you can chill out to the Rough Trade powered jukebox and stuff your face with their pies or fish finger sandwiches. Heading down stairs, there's a concrete nuclear bunker feel to the gig venue - the apocalypse could happen outside and the gig would carry on obliviously. There are tables and benches leading along the sides up to the stage, so you can grab a seat and enjoy the gig with a nice pint of their Kopparberg Cider. This is a great venue for free gigs - last year Alt. Music Soc. saw a free **Memory Tapes** gig there the day before he played a sold out Koko show.

Charlotte Ridler



Joanna and the Wold at The Social

Buffalo Bar:

251 Upper Street, Islington
Down in the basement beneath a pub called "The Famous Cock", the tiny 150 capacity Buffalo Bar is one of the focuses of London's Indie Pop scene. Lots of bands that like ukuleles, glitter and knitting turn up there (always fun!) but for those not that way inclined they have other less saccharine performers there too. It's a great intimate venue and the performers tend to mill around in the crowd when they're not playing. There's a projector

aimed at the stage that plays old film footage on the back wall when the bands are on and the bar serves crazy flavoured shots as well as the usual beverages. Once in a while you get an absolute gem of a gig there: **The Pains of Being Pure at Heart**, a band usually filling 1000 capacity venues, played one of the best and most energetic gigs I've ever been to with the crowd practically bouncing off the walls of the tiny venue.

Notting Hill Arts Club:

21 Notting Hill Gate
Apart from being insanely stylish, with amazing artwork covering the basement walls and projectors everywhere, the main attraction of Notting Hill Arts Club is their free band showcases every single Saturday. Each week **Rough Trade** puts on a line-up of bands showing off a selection of talent that can be anything from indie, folk, punk, psychedelica, electronica or even something in between. The bar serves a variety of drinks and cocktails, and there are lots of sofas around to relax on to the music. Turn up and hope for the best, since as it's free you have nothing to lose and you stand a chance of making some amazing discoveries.

Feel free to message Alternative Music Society at alt.music@ic.ac.uk and come along to band nights like these

MUSIC

'Rock & Roll' is dead

Suffering from a lack-spirited fearlessness, controversy and attitude, the withering genre of 'Rock and Roll' music is feared to be losing its roots and nearing its end



What a name to live up to – posers...

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club
Brixton Academy
December 2010
★★★★☆

Duncan Casey

It turns out that the **BRMC** have been turning out their brand of stripped-down garage rock, more reminiscent of the New York scene than that of their native California, for a decade now. They're one of those bands that you'll probably know a lot of songs by, but you won't know the name of – they've written a lot of the three-chord, XFM-friendly music that you never bothered to find out about. Still, they aren't a bad night's entertainment – the band, at the end of a long tour, put on a decent show and rattled through their back catalogue at machine-gun speed, complete with a pleasing (if incongruous) laser show.

Reach for the lasers, man.

If anything, though, the speed was part of the problem. They can clearly play and play well, but their self-consciously minimalist style means they don't seem to want to, substituting playing simple riffs at a million miles an hour for doing anything more complex or involving. It also meant that they cleared their set-list in a breathless sixty minutes before moving onto a forty-five minute encore, a crime more befitting Axl Rose's bloated and monstrous ego than a self-professed no-bullshit rock band. Still, the bizarrely middle-aged crowd lapped it up, and even attempted one of the world's slowest and most optimistic mosh-pits as the set reached its climax. All in all, a show for the dedicated fan only, but if you can check them out at a festival, where the short stage times might better suit their style, they'd be worth a look.

Wooden Shjips
Relentless Garage
December 2010
★★★★☆

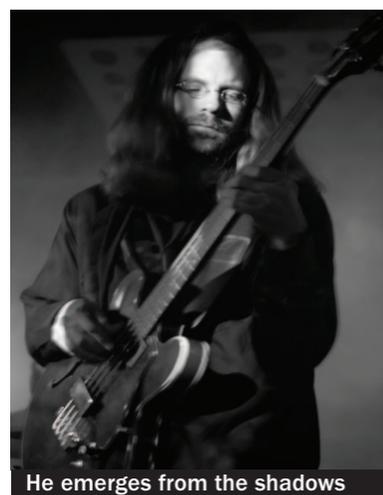
Peter Roberts

December brought **Wooden Shjips** to the Relentless Garage. **Wooden Shjips** are a Space/Drone/Psychedelic rock band hailing from San Francisco. This was my second time seeing the band, the first having been at Green Man in 2009. The band has an intelligent, spacey, zoned feel, but it's not for everyone.

Perhaps the most immediately recognisable aspect of this gig was the facial hair. Solid efforts were made from all bands, but Erik "Ripley" Johnson of **Wooden Shjips** and **Moon Duo** brought this aspect of the night's entertainment to a stunning climax, sporting a beard that would make Getafix the Druid proud. Dusty Jermier on the **Wooden Shjips'** bass followed a similar line, modelling pigtails and a moustache reminiscent of Obelix.

Wooden Shjips were supported by **Moon Duo** and **Howlin Rain**, a band new to me, who played powerful guitar driven rock evocative of a 70s Lynyrd Skynyrd (but beards more of the Iron & Wine school). A quick search on Spotify for their name is well worth the effort.

The evening was appreciated by a crowd consisting of a surprisingly eclectic age range. Towards the end of the night, a small group of men dancing as though nobody was looking was seen to nucleate at the front of the venue, although the activation energy wasn't reached for most not to remain content to bob their heads to the atmo-



He emerges from the shadows

spheric drones and pulsating bass line of **Wooden Shjips** songs like *We ask you to ride* and *Aquarian Time*. The drones were embellished with catchy guitar riffs and the neatly placed keyboard work of Nash Whalen. The highlight of the act for me however was the energetic drum beat that accompanied song after song.

It would feel slightly wrong not to give a full picture of the gig, and it must be admitted that listening to drone rock for this kind of a period can give rise to quite a significant headache. It is not as though **Wooden Shjips** mindlessly bludgeon your head as one might with a pneumatic drill or similar blunt instrument, but cranial penetration is self-evidently achieved. Probably the best analogy is that of trepanning, since the drilling is accompanied with significant surgical skill and for some people may reach straight to their demons.

Keep 'rock and roll' alive!

Starting with the King himself and progressing through the decades, it starts to get a little hard around the year 2000 mark.



Jailhouse Rock

Elvis Presley

Gene Vincent

Be Bop A Lula

Satisfaction

Rolling Stones

Layla

Derek & The Dominos

Black Sabbath

Paranoid

The Clash

Janie Jones

Bad Reputation

Joan Jett & The Blackhearts

Hard To Handle

Black Crowes

If you want to share a mind-blowing playlist send it in to music.felix@gmail.com

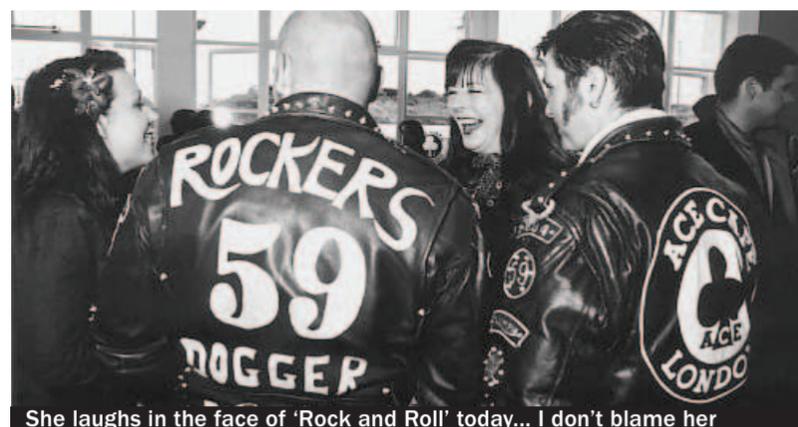
'Rock & Roll' - It's time to toughen up!

As electronic music surges through the cables that are the circulatory systems of London's nightclubs, some musical styles have taken steps towards infiltrating this electronic dominance

in today's music scene, notably contemporary R&B/Hip-Hop and Pop. Other musical styles have taken the front-line in a competitive battle against it, for example, Folk or Indie, and they are fighting a good fight. My beef is with the Rockers - a dangerous group of people to be starting a fight with I hear you say - well, you would think so wouldn't you. The truth is that there are people out there flying the flag for Rock music who would jump at the sight of a Harley-Davidson, hold their tongue when insulted and cringe at the thought of wearing leather. Yes, there are metal

heads, but a musical movement that changed the world can't have amounted to that - no offense. Just like how in Pop and R&B sex sells; in Rock music vulnerability, tears and acoustic guitars seems to be doing the same. Now we have so-called 'Rock-stars' wailing about their broken hearts, whimpering of lost ways and how comfortable love is... This is not 'Rock and Roll'! The potential to rock is there, just let the guitar do the wailing, the mods do the crying, get proactive and man-the-fuck-up 'Rock and Roll'!

Luke Turner



She laughs in the face of 'Rock and Roll' today... I don't blame her

Film Editors: **Jade Hoffman**
Ed Knock

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FILM

Classic Cinema

Breakfast at Tiffanys'



Japanese Schoolgirls will never be able to reach this level of adorableness

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of one of legendary actress Audrey Hepburn's most celebrated works: *Breakfast at Tiffany's* – a film which saw Hepburn's return to the screen, having just had her first child. Directing was the renowned Blake Edwards, who passed away last month.

Breakfast at Tiffany's revolves around Holly Golightly, a scatty yet irresistibly charming young woman. Her life in New York, a whirlwind of fine dining and hedonistic parties, is financed by her numerous attentive and devoted 'gentlemen admirers'. When a struggling writer moves into Holly's building, the two strike up a friendship and, as he is pulled deeper and deeper into Holly's world, he begins to explore her murky past and the secret longings she has kept hidden.

Hepburn's career-defining portrayal of Holly absolutely steals the show. She creates a character of such otherworldly elegance, such refined femininity, that the audience is captivated by her every move. At the same time the girl's dark side bubbles quietly at the surface, a gentle but significant provider of depth, that goes a long way.

Seen today, the film certainly shows its age; a benefit in some ways, but a drawback in others. Segments of dialogue often verge on the unbearably sentimental; the plot is quite predictable, and as a result a little unsatisfying.

But *Breakfast at Tiffany's* is a 'pleasant' film, in a way that films today cannot be. From the very opening scene, with its measured pacing and gorgeous camerawork, the film is, above all, nice to look at. Watching it is like watching Miss Golightly herself: refined, glamorous; exuding a positive air of good health.

Navid Nabijou

Hitchcock Ballet

Black Swan

Director Darren Aronofsky
Screenwriter Mark Heyman, Andres Heinz, John McLaughlin
Cast Natalie Portman, Vincent Cassel, Mila Kunis

Jan Piotrowski

Director Darren Aronofsky provides a masterful account of the human psyche's masochistic tendencies in a tale of the corruption of innocence, paranoia, and one hell of a psychotic breakdown. *Black Swan* is the story of sheltered ballerina Nina Sayers (Natalie Portman), who has recently been handed the much-coveted lead role in *Swan Lake*. Quiet, innocent and dedicated; Sayers has the perfect qualities to represent the purity and grace of the White Swan, however, it is her portrayal of the erotic and passionate abandon of the character's alter ego that presents the greatest barrier between Nina and success. It is no mean feat for a virginal teenager, who lives at home, and sleeps in a room that looks as if it has been decorated by a team of loved-up Care Bears, with a particularly strong penchant for pink.

She attempts this metamorphosis into the *Black Swan* under the mentorship of the show's artistic director, Thomas Leroy (Vincent Cassel), who uses seduction and bullying in equal measures to draw Nina out of her shell. Throw a smothering, bitter mother (Barbara Hershey) and a sly seductress (Mila Kunis) intent on stealing her part into the mix, and all the ingredients are there for a monumental melt-down.

The result is a frenetic, and completely absorbing film within a film

And what a melt-down it is. Nina's loss of grip on reality is marked by a series of hallucinatory, increasingly violent episodes that blur the boundaries between reality and the imaginary manifestations of Nina's insecurities. The result is a frenetic, and completely absorbing film within a film; where the events on and off the stage tragically mirror one another as Nina attempts to become the titular Black Swan whilst maintaining her sanity.

Whilst you can sympathise with Nina, however, and appreciate the caustic environment that she exists in, this film does little to actually make the viewer like the character. She is distrustful, paranoid and it is hard to fight the feeling that she somehow has brought all this upon herself. This is my major problem with the film, as I find that narratives of this type work best when the audience feel strongly one way or the other about the lead character. The power of Aronofsky's previous films (*The Wrestler*, *Requiem for a Dream*) relies on a real emotional connection with the characters; *The Wrestler* is mainly such a fantastic film be-

cause you genuinely care about Rorke's persona. Whilst Sayers' spiralling descent into psychosis is undoubtedly tragic and gripping, the lack of connection with the character creates more of an adrenaline-packed experience rather than an emotionally harrowing one. This is by no means a poor reflection of Portman's acting ability, who delivers a fantastic performance that marks a departure from her usual roles as quirky, yet generally harmless heroines. Neither is this necessarily a wholly negative point as the film still works tremendously well – it is just a matter of personal preference.

One thing that must be said is that the film looks fantastic. Cinematographer, Matthew Libatique, creates an atmosphere that fits perfectly with the duality of the plot by switching between slow and graceful scenes, and scenes that move at nausea-inducing speed. The most surprising revelation was that the film created a completely unexpected appreciation of the ballet itself. A combination of the fluid camera work, and Portman's discipline (she spent 6 months in gruelling training for the role) results in scenes that are quite simply beautiful to watch. Despite all the pirouettes and demi-pliés, however, *Black Swan* is, above all, a psychological thriller bordering on horror. While it may be accused of pushing the melodrama to the limit, it is definitely a couple of hours of fantastic (if a little stressful) entertainment that goes beyond anything that you would expect from a film based around ballet. It is dark, moody cinema at its best, and will keep you on the edge of your seat better than any slasher or gruesome horror flick could hope to achieve.



When I see this in the mirror, I'm usually trippin' balls

Director Profile: Danny Boyle

Ed Knock

The creative void of the '80s in cinema did not leave British cinema unaffected. The 'Carry on...' films and Hammer Horror series had fizzled out aons ago and the legacy of Ken Loach and Lindsay Anderson's Kitchen Sink dramas still left a stale aftertaste of gritty misery on British filmmaking. However as shoulder pads and big hair were quickly discarded in favour of baggy t-shirts and high waisted jeans and electro and disco mutated into the craziness of rave music; a special talent emerged to help re-energize the wayward film scene and pull it out of the doldrums. That talent was Danny Boyle and now a household name, his distinctive style and ability to transcend genres hadn't been seen since the golden days of Stanley Kubrick.

It was obvious from the opening of Boyle's debut film *Shallow Grave* that this director was special, a furious and dizzying display of the streets of Glasgow accompanied by a blistering acid techno track composed by a then unknown Left-

field. Boyle would pursue his affinity for dance music in later films, helping launch the careers of *Underworld* by featuring their famous Born Slippy track in the iconic ending of *Trainspotting*.

Danny Boyle was born to an Irish family in Lancashire in 1956. His strict Catholic upbringing was a direct influence on the morality of characters in many of his films and was directly addressed in brilliant but underappreciated *Millions*. Dissuaded from joining a seminary by a priest, Boyle eventually cut his teeth directing plays in London and producing programmes for the BBC instead of learning his craft at film school.

To say that *Shallow Grave* was a breath of fresh air is an understatement; it launched the careers of Christopher Ecclestone and Ewan McGregor and became the most successful British film of 1994. The unnerving atmosphere of the black comedy was achieved with minimal dialogue, disjointed editing and unusual camera shots maximising the impact of shadows. Boyle casted Ewan McGregor again in the adaptation of Ir-

ving Welsh's *Trainspotting*, the film that came to symbolise Tony Blair's 'Cool Britannia'. The combination of snappy editing, surreal montages, fast camera work and an excellent soundtrack twisted audiences into enjoying what was essentially a horrendous tale of how hard drugs ruin lives.

With the reputation of being the hottest director in England, it was inevitable that Boyle would be snared by Hollywood and reunited with his regular screenwriter John Hodge he headed to Thailand to film *The Beach*. It was his first flop, universally panned by critics. *The Beach* suffered from studio interference and a miscast Leonardo di Caprio, who was flown in to replace Ewan McGregor who had fallen out with the director.

It took only two years for Danny Boyle to bounce back and single handedly reinvent the forgotten zombie-apocalypse drama with *28 Days Later*. Shooting many sections on digital and starring newcomers Cillian Murphy and Naomie Harris alongside Christopher Ecclestone, *28 Days Later* was soon declared a hor-



ror classic. The mesmerising scenes of a hospital robe-attired Cillian Murphy wandering hopeless amongst a desolate central London ravaged by rage-inflicted zombies is timeless. Buoyed by the success of *28 Days Later*, Boyle made his most personal film, *Millions*. It dealt with the moral dilemma of finding a large amount of money and the innocence of children and was a critical triumph.

Sunshine reunited Boyle and Cillian Murphy for second time. Murphy, having been elevated to star status with roles in *Batman Begins* and *The Wind*

That *Shakes the Barley*, could not rescue the film from being a commercial flop. However Danny Boyle eventually joined the ranks of superstar directors when *Slumdog Millionaire* took eight Oscars in 2009 including best film and director. *127 Hours*, reviewed below, is the second outing of Boyle's with writer Simon Beaufoy and looks to be his most successful film yet after winning a slew of accolades from the critics. Alfred Hitchcock's crown of being the greatest British director of all time looks ever more precarious with each film of Danny Boyle's.

James Franco gives his right arm to *127 Hours*

127 Hours

Director Danny Boyle
Screenwriter Simon Beaufoy, Danny Boyle
Cast James Franco, Kate Mara, Amber Tamblyn, Clémence Poésy

Guo Heng Chin

Based on the book *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, *127 Hours* is the true story of Aron Ralston, an outdoorsman in his late 20s with a passion for mountaineering. While canyoning one sunny afternoon in Utah, he misjudged a boulder and took a fall. This would not have been so bad – he is an experienced climber after all – except that his right arm is pinned under the boulder and he is trapped 100ft inside a canyon in the middle of the great wilderness. The film charts the tale of Aron Ralston's struggle to stay alive and is certainly not for the faint-hearted.

There are many sound reasons to go and see *127 Hours*, not least because it is Danny Boyle's latest film. The British director whose debut with *Trainspotting* gained him a cult following, and recent Oscar-winning hit *Slumdog Millionaire*, has thankfully not lost his unique style in going international. *127 Hours* is a pure brew of Boyle's essence and it exudes a very indie feel for a mainstream film. Boyle is not afraid to experiment with the unconventional and the brilliant cinematography is one of many things

that make this movie so worth watching. Boyle combines dreamy surrealism with a hardy "Man vs. The Wild" film: an unusual, heady concoction that is fresh and invigorating.

In a role that earned him a well-deserved Golden Globe nomination, James Franco pulls off a wide-ranging portrayal of mountaineer Aron Ralston. Aron Ralston was an avid cameraman and documented his adventures extensively. Staying true to this, Boyle uses Ralston's self-documented videos as an integral part in exploring his character transformation, propelling the plot forward (it's like what James Cameron did in *Avatar*, only better). From the care-free adventurer we were introduced to at the start of the movie, Franco's Ralston transforms into the solemn man facing his impending death as things gets desperate under the boulder. It is a performance that shines through to the heart of the audience.

Franco's performance, however, is not enough to carry the film and it is a surprising stumbling block for Boyle, who has created some excellent character driven dramas (*Slumdog Millionaire* and *Sunshine*), that *127 Hours'* main weakness is its lack of story. It feels very much like one of those indie films that have so much style but lack plot content. After the first 15 minutes or so, Aron gets trapped under the boulder and, for the remainder of the movie, his struggle to free himself to no avail is an onslaught of sentimentalism with death at

his elbow that all gets rather repetitive.

The book upon which this movie is based featured extensive flashback scenes. This is something that Boyle could have used more extensively to develop the character of Aron Ralston with more depth and empathy. Whilst Boyle does capture the tale of a young

man's struggle for life and the introspective transformation that follows, the film does, unfortunately, become tedious at times with its monotonous setting only occasionally punctuated by sentimentalism and shock.

127 Hours is a noteworthy cinematic achievement but I doubt it can compete

with the highly intelligent *The Social Network* and the heartfelt *King's Speech* in the Academy Awards around the corner, mostly due to its lack of solid plot. At only 93 minutes, however, its imaginative and harrowing build-up to the finale is masterfully executed, and will still keep you glued to your seat.



I hate it when it slowly dawns on you that you're going to have to chop your own arm off with a penknife

GAMES

Games Editor: **Simon Worthington**

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Web Games

Each week we're going to bring you a selection of fresh, free and fun web games that you can play right away in your browser. Unless otherwise specified, you're going to need the Adobe Flash Player plug-in which can be installed from <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>.

Goblin War Machine bigblockgames.com/games/goblin



Sometimes it can all get on top of you. Girlfriend trouble? Exam stress? Then maybe it's time to kill some people... in this vehicular-action game of course! Take to this cannonball-firing monster truck and jump, drive and shoot all over the native human population of hamlets, villages and towns. Towers and buildings stand in your way, and warriors will fight back with spears, siege towers and even parachutes.

Although the gameplay is really fun when it gets going, the war machine's general bounciness and instability means the car is constantly flipping onto its back from which it's not possible to recover. Players can press 'F' to flip the wheels back over, but both hands are on the arrows and mouse so this is awkward. Otherwise, graphics fit well with the mood and the upgrade system keeps the game going for longer.

Five HTML5 games to try!

- **Pirates Love Daisies** pirateslovedaisies.com
The most impressive title in this list! A fully-featured tower-defense game that's just as fun and good-looking as any Flash title.
- **This Shell** thisshell.com
Cool jigsaw game where the pieces are a live music video!
- **Z-Type** phoboslab.org/ztype
Awesome-looking typing game. Type the words to shoot the incoming aliens.
- **The Legend Of Sadness** tinyurl.com/losadness
Zelda-inspired RPG game. Short and looks a bit weird, but fun nonetheless.
- **Torus** benjoffe.com/code/games/torus
3D rotating Tetris! A modern twist on the classic.



@FelixGames on Twitter

For all the latest gaming news from a source you can trust... me!

The next level for web games

Simon Worthington

Gaming is no longer all about consoles. Web games have gone from being the domain of bespectacled nerds to the salvation of the chronically bored masses. As game authors set the bar increasingly higher and tax our browsers to the limit, a new contender enters the eternal web format wars. To make a difference, it's going to have to be fast, good-looking and feature-rich.

Every webpage you have ever visited was written in a special computer language called HTML, or 'HyperText Markup Language', which tells your browser what to display, where to display it and how it should look. As it's the language that runs the entire Internet it's pretty important that everyone is speaking it in the same way, and for this reason HTML is a standardised language with a static set of features. The last update to the standard was in 1997 with HTML 4.0, and back then the web was a much simpler beast. No-one watched videos on YouTube and no-one chatted on Facebook, and it was impossible to see how the web would evolve and to design HTML with this in mind. Almost fifteen years of progress later and HTML 4.0 just doesn't cut it for building web sites to the standard we've come to expect.

HTML5 is the name given to a collection of new technologies, championed and standardised by web watchdog the World Wide Web Consortium, that updates the core technology that lies at the very heart of the web. Offline storage, rich browser-site communication and all-new graphical effects are among the features that will be landing in browsers soon, if not already: up-to-date users of Firefox, Chrome and Opera can start using HTML5-enabled sites immediately.

It hasn't been around for long and not every web browser supports it, but HTML5 has already begun making ripples in online game development. HTML5 effectively adds a 'canvas' to the web, allowing game developers to 'draw' shapes and sprites to the screen just like in conventional

programming. This has also opened the way for 3D graphics directly in the browser without the need for any third-party plugins like Flash through a yet-to-be-standardised technology called WebGL. Couple this with the myriad of improvements in JavaScript, the programming language that makes the web interactive, and suddenly game developers have a new, usable platform for making online games.

But HTML5 is entering an already saturated playing field. With Adobe's Shockwave Flash by far the most popular platform, and Microsoft's Silverlight and Java being less widely used alternatives, it might be hard to see what room there is for another way of creating and deploying online games. HTML5, however, has some significant advantages over the competition. Because HTML is the part of the

very fabric of the web the content is rendered right in the browser without the need for any third-party plugins or extensions. This is of particular advantage to phone users: HTML5 is already supported on the iPhone and iPad (where Flash isn't allowed to tread) and on Android phones, and games built using it can be played on all three without modification.

HTML5's strength is also unfortunately its downfall. When it comes to displaying the graphics and running the game the browser is strictly in charge, but this also means that the browser sets the limit of what's possible. Flash outperforms HTML5 in a number of key performance areas because it can be given access to a computer's graphics card via 'hardware acceleration', and because Flash runs the game and moves the screen around simultaneously where HTML5 and JavaScript do them one after the other it can handle more taxing graphical effects and physics. Browsers get better every day, but developers still have to work hard to match the performance of Flash whilst still having visuals that look as sweet.

But there is some good news for developers. To write a game for Flash or iPhone needs specialist software which, naturally, Adobe and Apple charge large sums for. HTML5, however, is a free and open standard, meaning that anyone can start using it without having to buy licenses or programs. This is great for the home developer and opens up the world of online games to anyone and everyone who wants to have a go at making their own. Plus, there are already scores of specially-built libraries that can make writing a game significantly easier and quicker than starting from scratch. The community at Internet news site reddit.com have compiled (redd.it/f094j) a large list of available libraries that solve problems in key areas like game physics, graphics, animation and sound, so there's no excuse for the budding developer not to give HTML5 a go.



Wossy reveals Nintendo 3DS details

Although Nintendo let their big bosses have the honour of announcing the Nintendo 3DS, the successor to their current range of handheld consoles, the task apparently fell to Jonathan Ross to host the latest press conference on the upcoming device.

With disgusting beard and sharp quips in evidence, Ross took the stage on Wednesday along with Nintendo marketing exec and Clooney-lookalike Laurent Fischer and even Ubisoft CEO Yves Guillemot. Together they revealed a wealth of information about the new console and also announced a March 25th launch date, no doubt chosen to coincide with the end of term at Imperial.

Along with the no-glasses-required 3D screens, it was revealed that the 3DS will also feature a motion sensor and a new circular directional pad. Proving again that you can make products better by simply sticking more stuff inside, Nintendo have added yet another cam-

era to the record set by the DSi for a grand total of three cameras, one on the inside and two on the outside of the lid. Using these two cameras it will be possible to take 3D photos, saving them onto the 2GB SD card that comes with the system. It was also revealed a depth slider can be used to adjust the 3D effect.

Shortly after Wossy made another Sachsgate-esque comment about Laurent Fischer's wife (we think), 'SpotPass' and 'StreetPass' were named as the two new ways to take advantage of the DS wireless functionality. SpotPass is Nintendo's always-on Internet connection: whether playing games or in sleep mode (with the lid closed), the 3DS will connect automatically to compatible access points and download content in the background. Eurosport and Aardman were named as partners who will be delivering exclusive 3D content via SpotPass.

StreetPass instead uses a local Wi-Fi connection to exchange details with nearby 3DS

owners, and is again active even when in sleep mode. This allows users 'in the street' to exchange Miis and exclusive game content automatically just by walking past each other. DS owners will also be pleased to know that the disgustingly complicated friend code system has been simplified to give one code per system instead of one per game.

Nintendo also showed off some cool augmented reality features, a new Mii Maker studio capable of making Miis automatically from pictures taken with the cameras, and 'Face Raiders' – a shooting gallery made up of the faces you've taken. So, you can take your own picture, insert it into the gallery and shoot yourself in the face. Brilliant!

Also announced were the games: Metal Gear Solid: Snake Eater, Pro Evolution Soccer 3D, Dead or Alive Dimensions, a new Resident Evil title and even remakes of The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time and Starfox 64.

Fashion Editor: **Saskia Verhagen**

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FASHION

Menswear in Milan: Trendwatch

Every type of gentleman is catered for on the menswear runways this season, from the fashionably daring to the handsomely debonair – **Saskia Verhagen** reports

Crayola Bright Colour



Unusually for the Autumn/Winter menswear collections, the runways were rather jolly - credited to the flashes of colour seen especially at Burberry Prorsum, Jil Sander and Bottega Veneta. There was none of the jewel-hued colour blocking we saw over at womenswear, but just pops of juicy brights: burnt orange, pea green, mustard or royal blue featuring as just one piece in an ensemble, a sweater perhaps, or coral red trousers - a favourite at Jil Sander, or maybe an eye-catching overcoat, as seen at Bottega Veneta and Burberry - choose from rainbow-hued pea and trench coats at Burberry (where the drama of the clothes was matched by the faux rain in the finale), or warm wool duffels at Bottega Veneta. No pastels in sight, and certainly no patterns: simple, high-impact pieces and astute colour usage is the key here - overkill is not an option. Pick one thing, and stick to that.

Translation: take cue from Tomas Meier at Bottega Veneta, who combined his elegant monochrome basics with shots of rich, bright hues.

Suave English Gentleman



From the penthouse on Canary Wharf to the manor house in Derbyshire, every type of English gent was catered for, with super-sleek debonair tailoring at Dolce and Gabbana and Ermenegildo Zegna for the former, and heritage tweeds, fur and shearling at Burberry Prorsum and Gucci for the latter. Plenty of playful tartans complete with leather elbow patches at Moncler Gamme Bleu for the dashing Scotsman too. For suits, the dapper gentleman has his pick of the bunch, with 2 vs 3-piece, double vs single-breasted and endless variations on fabric (pinstripe vs. plain), buttons (2 or 3) and lapels (wide vs. narrow) - the key here is to know your body type, and what suits you (sir). For heaven's sake, choose wisely - a great suit is for life. With the right choice, he goes from "off-the-rack" to a bespoke, elegant and refined gentleman - and who doesn't want one of those?

Translation: if ever there was a time to buy yourself a suit guys, it's now. The tailoring is at its most flattering, turning even Homer Simpson into Don Draper.

Layered Urban Hipster



This is Russell Brand meets a young Johnny Depp, with a bit of expensive Milanese polish. The dark, brooding, existentialist hipster at John Varvatos could teach an onion how to layer: perfect textures were combined effortlessly; loose ties, cardigans, suit jackets, button-ups and slouchy biker boots - every ingredient your grown-up hipster needs to maintain his nonchalant charm. How To Layer 101: a great colour palette (shades of grey, black and khaki), luxe textures (leather, jersey and loose knits) and some of that raffish rogue attitude - plus don't forget your fitted trousers (not too tight; remember the hipster that got thrush from his skinny jeans? It's a true story). The sexiest trousers were seen over at Costume National along with the ultimate insouciant throw-over-everything overcoat - perfection.

Translation: embrace your inner hipster - he's cool again. Side swept hair (no need to remind our Editor-in-Chief) skinies and round sunglasses complete the look.

Fear and Loathing in the 1970s



The 1970s throwback seen on the Spring/Summer 2011 womenswear catwalks was always bound to translate into menswear, though with somewhat varying success. But let's put it this way - Saturday Night Fever is definitely upon us, like it or not. At Prada, there were V-patterned nylon tracksuits, emerald green lurex turtlenecks (oh no they didn't) and pumpkin suede patchwork jackets. A collective curled lip and hiss of disgust from every man worth his sartorial salt. But over at Salvatore Ferragamo and Roberto Cavalli, the story was a little different, with a slightly more subtle, and moreover tasteful approach to the groovy influence. The palette was splashed with teal and terracotta, with licks of leather and velvet, and touches of fur (fur on men? Save me) lending a more retro vagabond feel. Less kitsch travelling salesman, more Johnny Depp.

Translation: channel your inner 70s rockstar and throw caution to the wind in a coloured 3-piece suit à la Raoul Duke. Warning: this one isn't for the faint-hearted.



Are you bored?

Don't just sit there, man!

Get off the couch and start writing for Felix. Email felix@imperial.ac.uk to find out how.



Russian Service or French? I PREFER ENGLISH

By Samuel Furse

One of the things all the top chefs say is that one of the reasons they are in the job is because they like putting a plate of food in front of someone...

A good recent example of this is Nigel Slater, whose early life was dramatised on the BBC over Christmas – arguably more for the gay kiss than for the lemon meringue, one might say.

The problem then comes with how this is going to happen. You might think, well, duh, cook the food and then dole it out. Putting together the flavours that one wants to serve for various occasions is usually not transferrable; the way food is served at a wedding will be utterly different to that of a few friends at home, arranged at only a few hours' notice. Added to which, as any QI geek will tell you, thanks to an answer from David Mitchell for which he was awarded 'Teacher's pet' in the 'Food' episode of series 6, there are two ways of doing this.

Service à la Française is the older of the two in western Europe. Various descriptions exist, but it seems that this was used for larger banquets and social gatherings. The food was served rather more like a buffet than a sat-down meal at a table. Thus, in order to get one's choice of dishes, and to get the hot food before it went cold one had to be tall and long-limbed. Whether or not this was selected for genetically in any strong sense is unclear, but if it was it clearly counted against the French aristocracy later on, as longer necks are easier to guillotine.

Service à la Russe is the one we are altogether more familiar with, in which food is brought out in courses, one dish at a time. In company I find this too restrictive. How often in a restaurant have you seen a dish go past that you would like to try? What about formal dinners in which there needs to be special provision made for nut allergies, fussy eaters or people who choose to be vegetarian? Well, you hope they would tell you in advance but even if they do, there is an unfortunate isolating effect of a 'special'



When food has no meaning and gets you down, call for Uncle Sam (Furse that is, not the pointing chap with the hat)

meal. I find myself wanting everyone to be able to eat together on a level playing field. Of course we could go down to the lowest common denominator and all eat like free vegans but as that made me want to reach for my gun, I looked for a different approach. Also, would it not be a bonus if they were able to enjoy the food and talk about it at the same time? Food is not Granny-incest, it can be talked about without upsetting anyone.

So where does that leave us? We know the disadvantages of *service à la Française*, though it must have allowed 18th century French diabetics to fit in but it is awkward to organise food like that, especially for a smaller group like a dinner party. I call my solution *service à l'Anglaise*. I cannot be sure whether it is original to me – nothing in Larousse is similar, nor that I can find on Wikipedia.

As that gives pretty much the two ends of the spectrum for gastronomic reliability I think I am safe in presenting it as original.

Service à l'Anglaise is based on two or three dishes to each course, typically with a theme between them. An example of a theme would be a flavour, such as paprika or Roquefort. It could even be something as simple as pasta, but two different roasted meats served with the same roasted potatoes and vegetables does not count as *Service à l'Anglaise*. Another problem with weaker formats is that it is a lot more fun to do other things – and gives everyone a chance to try things that are different, as well as no one being singled out.

I designed the List of Comestibles (above right) for a dinner party at which I had Jewish guests, thus it needed to

be possible to avoid pork, shellfish and mixtures of meat and dairy products. I am reliably told that 'eating Jewish' usually means fish rather than meat anyway. There was also a cocoa issue.

The wine choice with this list must of course be in the proper sommelier tradition and thus go with the dishes as far as possible. I like chenin blanc, particularly South African ones as they are more acidic. This is often tiresome when taken alone, but with a dish like this starter will be a valuable flavour enhancer. Additionally, fresher whites will go well with fish and so this wine will also work with the Kedgeree of the main.

The theme between the pair of dishes for the main course was twofold. I put paprika in the rice of the kedgeree, and in the pastry. The inclusion of cheddar was originally by accident, but it

worked well so I left it in. Though the pastry dish could go with white wine I think it works better with a light red. Anything too tanniny kills any subtlety in the paprika so an aged merlot or possibly one of the less fruity cabernet sauvignon is best. These can drift into the desert course (avoiding the *faux pas* of opening red wine in the sweet course), but the acid of the chenin blanc should have gone by the time the mellow, peaty digestif arrives. Lighter reds please my female Jewish guest – she has a liking for red wine but not pork – so it was also useful for the red to be compatible with the fish.

It is fair to say that *service à l'Anglaise* is not necessarily easier for the host than any other way of serving food, but with a little thought it means that you can be sure the food will not let you down.

List of Comestibles

Raspberry Cocktail

§

Taramousalata, with Potato pancakes

South African Chenin blanc

§

Bacon, Tomato and Onion Pie

~

Smoked Haddock and Paprika Kedgeree

Cherry Tomatoes ~ Sweetcorn

~

Sweet Peppers

§

Orange and Chocolate Cake

~

Raspberry Cake

Apple and Raspberry Ice Cream

§

Whisky ~ Disaronno ~ Port

TRAVEL

Travel Editor: **Dylan Lowe**
Chris Richardson

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Wishing You Were Here



Breathtaking sights by Chris Richardson

Want to see your travel photograph featured here? Send it to travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Travel Deals of the Week

AirAsia is a Malaysia-based budget airline. They're a great point of contact for those seeking flights across the world on a more modest budget. If you've ever used EasyJet then you'll be more than familiar with the procedures: pack your own blanket, pillow and sandwiches and you're set to go.

Flights are between Stansted and Kuala Lumpur, and once in Kuala Lumpur you can continue on a connecting flight to several other destinations.

AirAsia have recently introduced **FLY-THRU**, whereby customers can catch connecting flights via a convenient transfer hall with a minimum waiting time of 90 minutes.

Their latest great offers include one-way flights to:

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	from £249
Bangkok, Thailand	from £269
Bali, Indonesia	from £279
Melbourne, Australia	from £319
Christchurch, New Zealand	from £389

Visit AirAsia.com to find out more!

Planning a trip and want some advice from experienced travellers? Have a travelling tale to share with Imperial? Send us a tweet with #FelixTravel or drop us an email at travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Big croc on campus

Next week **Marianne Teoh** will be undertaking a week of humiliation to raise awareness for charities in Indonesia

Word on the street is that next week will be a sweaty one for Biology fresher Marianne Teoh, as on Monday she gets engulfed by the crocodile suit which she'll be confined to for the subsequent week. A far cry from the oh-so-tiresome leg shaving and cookie baking 'antics' to which we're all so accustomed, this campaign is one to watch. I decided to find out what it was all about.

So... you're wearing a crocodile suit, huh?

That's right. All day, all night, rain or shine, for as long as I can starting on Monday. Walking down the street with a bucket and sign can be a little, well, boring. My crocodile debut involved selling cupcakes around South Kensington: it generated loads of enthusiasm so I decided to take it to the next level.

This is just the beginning: these antics will continue, if I get the support. Watch this space.

But why the humiliation? What's the cause?

This summer I will be volunteering with The Foundation for Mother and Child Health in Indonesia. The charity provides a way for communities to lift themselves out of extreme poverty – from feeding programmes, health, hygiene and nutritional education, to providing pre-school education, medical services, skills training and microcredit. The charity trains local community health workers to spread the word. As well as programmes in Indonesia, they now have a separate charity in the slums of Mumbai.

Following this placement I'll be joining an Operation Wallacea project in Sulawesi as a research assistant. The Trust supports community-based forest conservation programmes in Indonesia, and students like me join as part of the research team to support the charity. Through research, teaching and community development they aim to maximise the benefits to local families while defending the rainforests.

How can Imperialites help you on your quest?

From my waking hour, while cycling to university, through lectures, and onto nights out clubbing, as well as everything in between, I'll be confined to the crocodile suit. But as if that display of impracticality and downright stupidity isn't enough, I'm open to suggestions, and I invite sponsored challenges from anyone!

If you'll sponsor me on the condition that I have a photo taken performing an activity (keep it clean) or at a ridiculous location, such as atop Big Ben, then I'll do my best to meet that challenge. So far I'm booked in for a dip at the Serpentine Lake next Friday – I'm determined to survive this one and look forward to getting more requests in the future!



A taste of things to come: next time let's challenge her to get on the bike!

Wishing you the best of luck with the fundraising – croc on!

We certainly wish Marianne all the best and hope that her experience in Indonesia is a valuable one. You can find out about how her travels work out in the follow-up article when she returns.

If you'd like to find out more about the charities involved, or sponsor Marianne to do something stupid, visit the links below.

Interview by **Chris Richardson**

Indonesia, the facts:

More than **80 million** Indonesians currently live on less than **\$1 a day**

Nearly **28%** of Indonesian children under 5 **suffer from malnutrition**

Indonesia's global hunger index is defined as **serious** by the World Food Programme

(Source: Ministry of Health)



Challenge Marianne!

JustGiving.com/MarianneTeoh
Pledge your donation here.

on.fb.me/etEKK8
Join the Facebook page and present your challenge!

MotherAndChildHealth.org
The official site for The Foundation for Mother and Child Health (UK Registered Charity No. 1117793)

The Hawaiian antidepressant

Success story of an Imperial miser finding happiness on the islands of manta rays, volcanoes, surfs and opposite-sex attention – **Charles Betts** visits Hawaii

There are an awful lot of grumpy people in London at the moment. They're fed up with the daily commute on overcrowded trains, the fellow passengers sneezing all over them, and the realisation that they just don't have the will power to keep any New Year resolutions. But actually their crabbiness does not stem from any of these things. It's all down to a bad case of seasonal affective disorder, aka winter depression.

For different reasons, these people have decided to live in an overpopulated, polluted, and very-wet city. They find themselves longing to be somewhere sunny, constantly dreaming of those never-ending summer days, the sea, and the outdoors.

I'm no doctor, but I think a trip to Hawaii might just fix their tempers – it worked for me. The 50th state of the USA is the most isolated population centre in the world, and is constantly being reformed by eruptions of undersea volcanoes. It's not just a place for beach holidays and partying – though there's

“There are a lot of grumpy people in London at the moment...I think a trip to Hawaii might just fix their tempers”

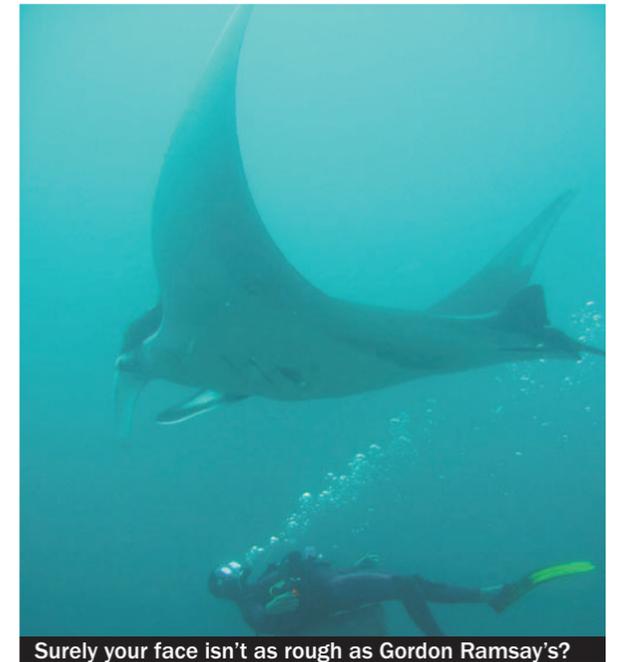
plenty of that on offer – but also offers the chance to see flowing lava, whales, and 8000 species of animal found nowhere else on the planet. Hawaii is all about water sports, rainforest treks, waterfalls, cocktails with small umbrellas, and Hula girls.

It's a myth that the place costs an arm and a leg. For around £1500 – including flights, car rental, accommodation, food, and activities – I spent 3 weeks out there. Isn't it nice that a car in the US only costs about £5? The best place for the parties and nightlife is certainly the island of Oahu, the most populated of the lot – the North Shore is also renowned for surfing (it's where they filmed James Bond riding the waves in *Die Another Day*).

An English accent is a sure-fire way of making friends. You know that scene in *Love Actually* when the quiet English chap goes into a bar? Well, it is actually like that in Honolulu. No sooner had I



Yes it's a beach... again – now quit staring at the photo, go to one and shag something



Surely your face isn't as rough as Gordon Ramsay's?

ordered a beer before I was explaining which “Circus” I lived in in London, that the UK hadn't adopted the Euro, and that England is not the same thing as Britain. They were very nice to me – they even thanked me for Blair going to Iraq...I'm afraid to say that my moral beliefs quickly left the room when confronted with several voluptuous blondes. When asked where I was residing, I stated the local hostel. I was told to not be silly, I could stay at theirs. I'm deadly serious.

During the daytime, Oahu has oodles to offer. There's the world-famous Hanauma Bay, a snorkelling paradise with hundreds of tropical fish and turtles. The Byodo-In temple is a scale replica of the temple at Uji in Japan, and

the Buddha is the largest carved figure to be built since ancient times. Then there's Pearl Harbour and the USS Ari-

“You know that scene in *Love Actually* when the English chap goes into a bar? It's actually like that in Honolulu”

zona memorial. And treks through the rainforests, not forgetting the countless

sun-kissed beaches.

The oddest site on Oahu is the Church of Latter Day Saints temple. It lies within a huge compound full of spotless white houses. It was pretty scary – there was even a brainwash-learning centre. Avoid at all costs.

The Big Island (called Hawaii) is not to be missed. Don't let the rain in Hilo (the rainiest city in the US) get you down – Hapuna Beach, rated one of the best in the world, can be found at the other side of the island with its turquoise sea and white sand. There are also great diving opportunities – one can go night diving with Manta Rays that have 15ft wingspans.

The village of Volcano (population 2000) is located next to the Volcano

National Park, where you can see the world's most active volcano glowing at night. By the coast, it is possible to witness new land in the making where the lava reaches the ocean.

The Big Island is also host to the world's tallest mountain – Mauna Kea, which starts at the ocean floor and climbs 13,700ft above sea level. It is possible to drive to the peak, where there are numerous observatories. The landscape resembles Mars, and it is here that Apollo astronauts rehearsed with their lunar rover.

The Big Island is much quieter than Oahu. For that reason, it is worth sandwiching your trip there between your stay in Oahu – but the volcanoes are a must see.



A very inviting-looking hole isn't it?



You know when your dad 'took you to Mars'? That was a lie. Your entire life is a lie

HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Twitter



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

Ffs some woman with a disabled kid is givin me shit



Barack_attack_I33thaxor

Yeah, I'm in a similar situation. I've got the king of China here



The_Cleggomatortrontown <3

Ok, firstly, how are they similar situations? And secondly he's not the king of China



SexyOsama69

Is she sayin that the Tories made her kid retarded?



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

yeah something like that. Wasn't really listenin



The_Cleggomatortrontown <3

No! It was nothing like that!



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

Did you tell the King of China that he is a bit of a dick?



Barack_attack_I33thaxor

Yeah something like that. Just read what was on ma flash cards



The_Cleggomatortrontown <3

No you didn't say that Obie, Jesus did you actually write any of your speech?



Barack_attack_I33thaxor

Dunno. Seriously tho, King of China is fuckin sick at Starcraft 2

DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

Send your photos to felix@imperial.ac.uk. Get permission. Don't be cruel.

Pass the sick bag:

The antics of these Imperial College medical students makes me want to asphyxiate myself

The thing that surprised me the most about the Daily Mail article was the veracity of the report, but then the photos did only contained white students. It amused me when they talked about Rugby players eating doughnuts of each other's dicks as if it were an unusual spectacle. If they'd only spoken to me, I would have told them that it's actually rarer to see an Imperial rugby player without another one eating something off his dick. Here is how I would write an article for a general evening of loudness at the Union.

It's a rowdy Wednesday night at Imperial College London and things are kicking off! After speaking to an excited, and clearly inebriated, fresher who said 'This is shit, I'm going home', it was obvious that this was a night not to be missed.

I walk into the main drinks bar place called Five Seven One? Seven Eight Six? Oh it's Five Six Eight because that's how many millimetres make up a pint! Hilarious! The witty name alone gave me some indication of just how funny some of the students at Imperial College London are. For instance, one rather large oafish topless football player compared my drinking of wine to the habits of a homosexual male, which of course had me in stitches of laughter.

I then stared in amazement as the whole football team managed to each imbibe a whole pint of alcoholic beverage by continuously gulping until the whole glass was empty. The ability to drink apparently recognised in the community as a feat

Hangman needs new writers. If you think you're funny, you're probably not.

If you don't think you're funny and just sit in your room crying and masturbating, you're probably perfect, so give me an email:

hangman@ic.ac.uk



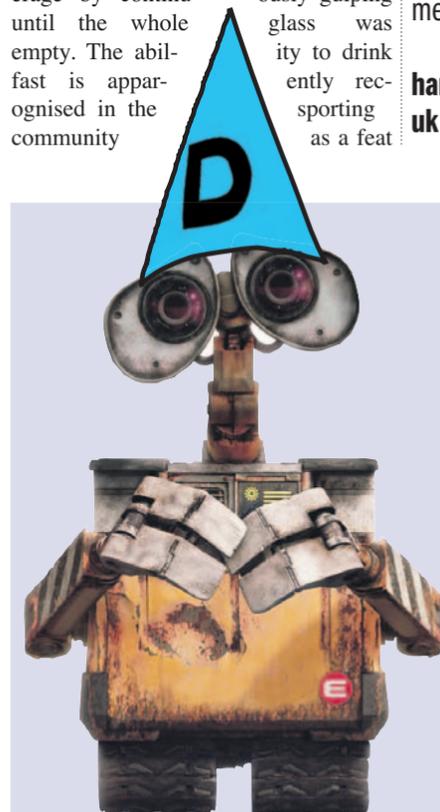
WHOOAA. The Union is fucking INSANE!!! Damn those crazy students!

of endurance, despite the fact that nothing is really enduring anything because drinking is a natural human function. I guess the liver has to process the toxins, but if it were all about liver endurance, surely they would simply take turns to inject pure alcohol into their veins and see who can live the longest. I have to admit that I would be more impressed if they were downing pints of bleach.

I then walk outside and find an alternate reality to the world of Nine Three Eight. Instead of loud, unintelligible and discordant songs about downing pints and sucking dicks, I found a crowd of babbling intellectual high-functioning smokers. I sat down and asked one for his name, to which he replied, 'what does my name mean to you? A name is just a name; it's doing something with your name that gives it meaning.' And then he took a drag from his cigarette and breathed out with deliberate slowness, as if giving me ample time to digest his twatty attempt at philosophical proverb.

I go into the Union nightclub sort of thing called Metric, WHICH IS FUNNY BECAUSE WE'RE FROM IMPERIAL HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHHAHA. It would seem that the overwhelming male majority were trying to solicit coitus from the small population of visually displeasing girls. It's always the same visually displeasing girls who go to Metric, so I'm assuming that the rugby/football team have some sort of rota system for determining who gets to take them home. The stench of sweat, ego and visually displeasing girls is enough to make me vomit. Thankfully a Christian Volunteer group were standing by with a bucket, but I chose the floor because I'm Indie and non-conformist.

Any passer-by could question the true calibre of Imperial's finest minds, but then most of Imperial's finest minds are in their rooms wanking over Schrodinger. And I can't be too critical of the sporting teams because that is a damn good rota-system they've got going.



Dunc-E

The w0rld Expla1ned by Dunc-E, the clumsily-programmed and seriously misinformed robot

This week Dunc-E explains...

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict arised because Of the jews and the arabs didn't kn0w where anything is. The Jews are all like where is Israel? And the Arabs are like d0n't kn0w where Israel is Or s0mething because they say that Israel isn't there and then the jews get Angry and then the Palestinians are all like get kicked Out Of Palestine because they are actually in Israel but the Arabs d0n't reckon it is Israel and but the Palestinians are als0 Arabs but n0t all Arabs are Palestinians and s0 n0-One really kn0ws what Palestine is and wh0 is a Arab or a Palestinian and s0 the jews just kick everyOne Out Of Israel but actually it's n0t even Israel Or s0mething s0 they all just start sh00ting each Other because it's easier s0luti0n t0 a very c0nfusing situati0n.

THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS

China hails new underground bus service a success



DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK



Listen mate, if you've got a bit of tinkle from your winkle on your jeans, the LAST thing you want to do is fucking dry it in!!! No wonder that American girl never called you back...

Horoscopes

Aries

This week you become a stand up comedian. Suddenly the world becomes a more interesting place. You start standing up, anywhere and everywhere. On the bus, in lectures, on the toilet. You're thinking of going global! Right after you've figured the comedian bit...

Taurus

This week you wish that a hole would open up in the ground and swallow you up. Instead a hole opens up in the wall. A really big missile shaped hole. Oh dear you live in a war zone. You don't remember what peace-and-quiet feels like. Hey, whose limbs are those? LOL.

Gemini

This week is a tough one. The days are blurring into each other and you know you're not getting enough sleep. There's really no way out. This is life. It's an endless sequence of alarm clocks, coffee and disappointment. WTF! That guy over there is smiling! Pffft! Asshole!

Cancer

This week some slobbering fat guy presses up against you on the tube. You try elbowing him and asking him to move away from you but it doesn't work. What an asshole. You bring out the heavy guns. You spread your legs and let out an almighty female fart. FUCK YEAH!

Leo

This week you make a decision. It is the most important decision that you will ever make. It could make you the most famous Imperialite ever lived. This decision...oh I've built it up too much now. There's nothing I can write that will be funny enough. Ummm... TITTIES!

Virgo

This week your stomach rumbles really loudly in lectures. Fuck all that 'blushing face and "I'm so hungry"' bullshit. You're all about the truth. You stand up, farting as you do, and declare "So what? I've got hella GAS!" You receive a standing ovation from your peers...

Libra

This week, you try to share a smile with someone that used to be special to you. The magic just isn't there any more. It's no good, you'll never get it back. I guess some things just can't last forever, but it's o.k. you'll meet someone new. You sigh and put his body back in the closet

Scorpio

This week is frankly just dreadful. There's not a single other thing that could go wrong for you this week. I mean this week is the fucking Emile Heskey of weeks. It's the fucking ASDA of weeks. It's the fucking... Oh hey! A pringle! What was I talking about?

Sagittarius

This week you are Michael Barrymore's head which has mysteriously sprouted on some twat's arms. It's torture. You spend weeks and weeks in his bedroom being forced to suck his dirty cock. Man you Capricorns really need to get some action. I mean, get a grip...

Capricorn

This week your hands fall off and in their place, the head of Michael Barrymore sprouts. Which is fucking awesome because everytime you have a wank, you get a double blowjob. Fuck yeah Michael, you're one dirty ex-tv presenter... Mmm oh yeah, just like that, keep going...

Aquarius

This week you start to look forward to the summer. It'll be hot and you won't have to wake up when it's dark. You'll be free to do whatever you want and will hopefully go travelling. You'll meet a beautiful girl and have so much fun. Seriously, this one doesn't have a catch... shit isn't it?

Pisces

This week you realise the almighty power that you hold as an Imperial student. You walk up to girls in swanky London clubs, jab a finger in their face and say "HEY. I'm a SMART GUY. I know so many FUCKING things. Let's GET IT ON." It works! Well, not actually... Pint?

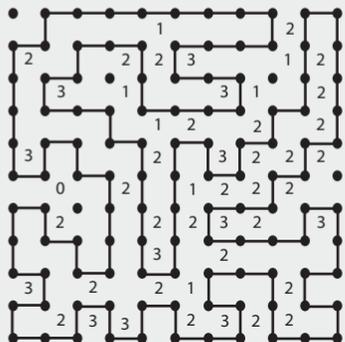
Puzzles Editors: **Polly Bennett**
James Hook
Aman Nahar

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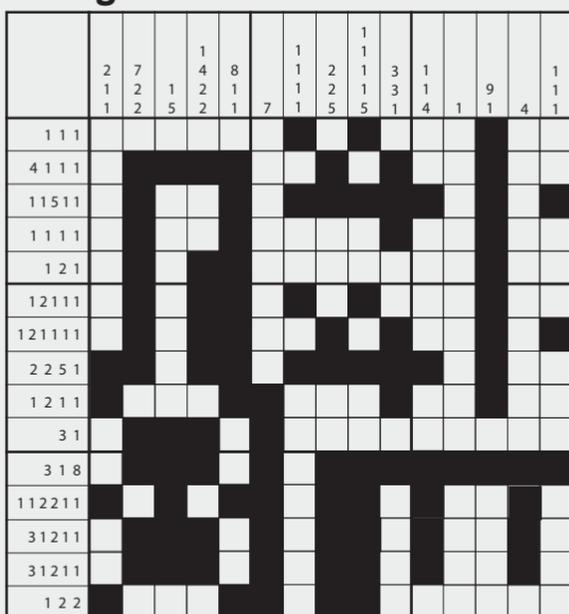
PUZZLES

Last Week's Solutions

Slitherlink



Nonogram



Crossword



CRYPTIC - Across 1. Middle C 5. Misstep 9. Riverbank 10. Saxon 11. Nuclear Fusion 13. Omission 15. Ethene 17. Outfox 19. Mothball 22. Breathing Room 25. Optic 26. Sloganeer 27. Eyebrow 28. Epistle **Down** 1. Mark 2. Da Vinci 3. Lyric 4. Chaperon 5. Makers 6. Sasquatch 7. Textile 8. Pine Needle 12. Go For Broke 14. Sports Car 16. Mongoose 18. Theatre 20. Armrest 21. Jigsaw 23. Okapi 24. Tree

Going Underground

T	O	W	E	R	H	I	L	L
20	15	23	5	18	8	9	12	12

W	H	I	T	E	C	I	T	Y
23	8	9	20	5	3	9	20	25

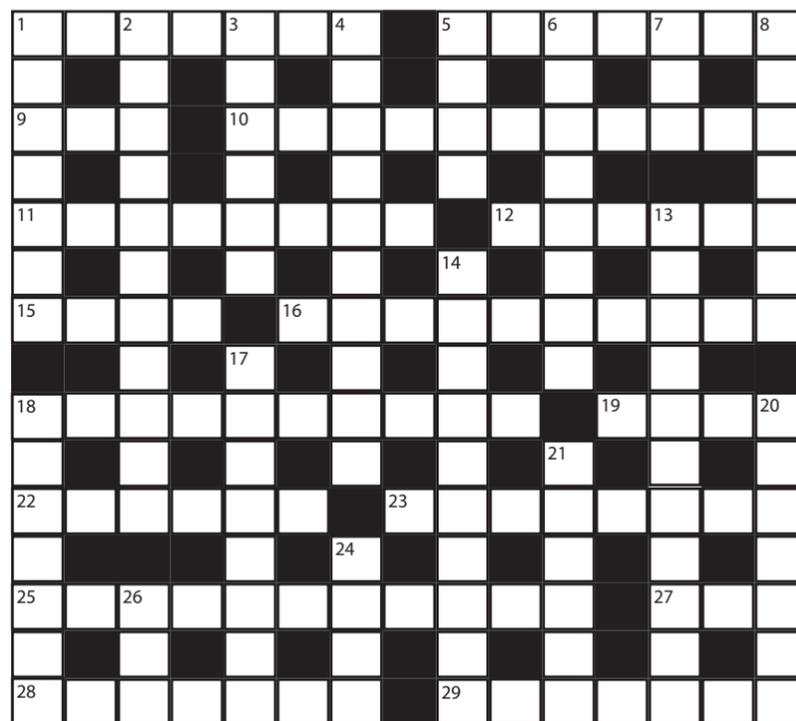
Crossword

Across

- Lacking superior suit (2,5)
- Monster having lion's head, goat's body, serpent's tail (7)
- Sports equipment (3)
- Realistic (4,2,5)
- ___ and Broomsticks, Disney film (8)
- Race around poles (6)
- Valley (4)
- Unowned area (2,4,4)
- Lively Italian dance (10)
- All two (4)
- Street (6)
- Gracious (8)
- One with excessive social behaviour (5,6)
- Maintained as legal organisation (abbrev.) (3)
- Buries (7)
- Small whale with tusk (7)

Down

- Used to feed horses (7)
- Interrogation (5,6)
- Doomed to extinction (6)
- Lender of money in exchange for property (10)
- Lloyd Webber musical (4)
- Unrealistic visionary (8)
- Be wrong (3)
- Feeling guilt (7)
- Act of accepting something unprovable (4,2,5)
- Actor; films include Cool Hand Luke, The Colour of Money (4,6)
- Widening of artery (8)
- Tread heavily (7)
- Coiling (7)
- Relating to directionless magnitude (6)
- Responsibility (4)
- Putrefication (3)



Wordoku

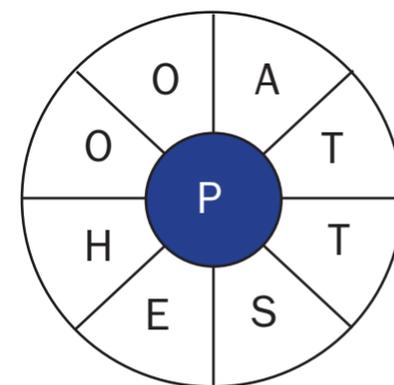


This week's wordoku isn't really worth mentioning...it's just a wordoku... Once again, every row, column and 3x3 box contains each symbol.

Word Wheel

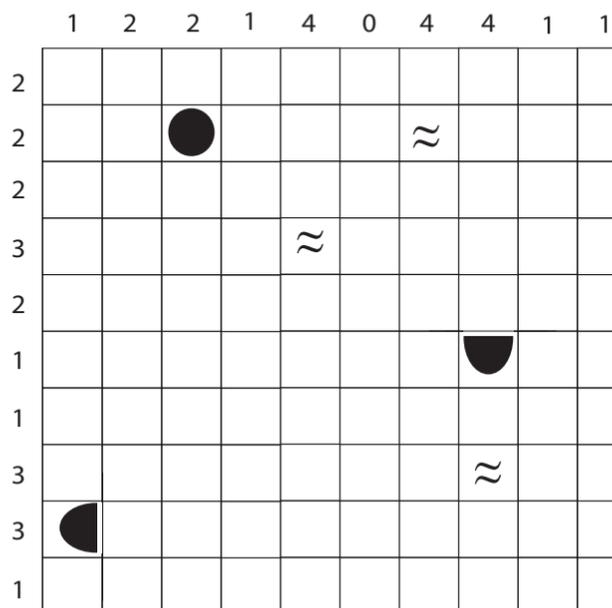
TARGET: 36

Make as many words of at least 4 letters as you can, always using the central one. **NO** plurals, conjugated verbs, comparatives or superlatives, because I said so.. There is always at least one 9 letter word.



Battleships

Ahoy mates, battleships is here for fans of pirate based logic. You have to fit all of the ships to the right into the grid, with one piece taking up one square (so the biggest ship takes up four squares in a row, either vertically or horizontally). The numbers outside the grid indicate how many pieces of ship are in that row or column. Ships are not allowed to touch, not even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in for you, with waves of the sea where there definitely is no ship.

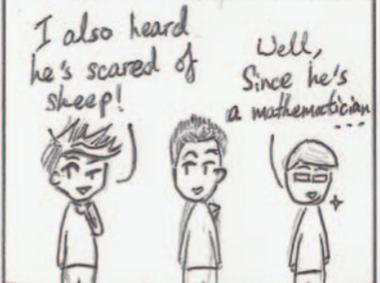
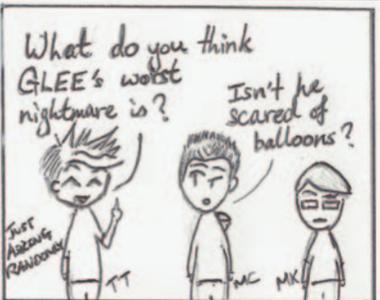
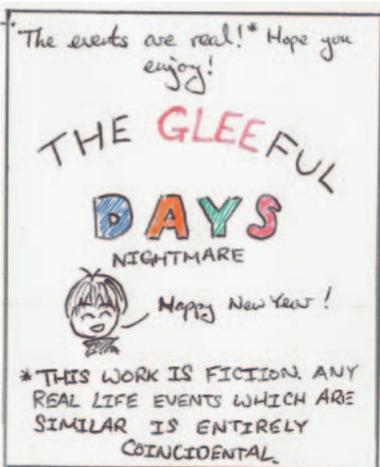
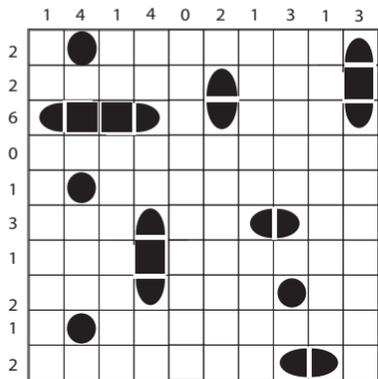


- 1 x Aircraft Carrier
- 2 x Battleship
- 3 x Cruiser
- 4 x Destroyer

Puzzles Editors: **Polly Bennett**
James Hook
Aman Nahar
 puzzles.felix@imperial.ac.uk

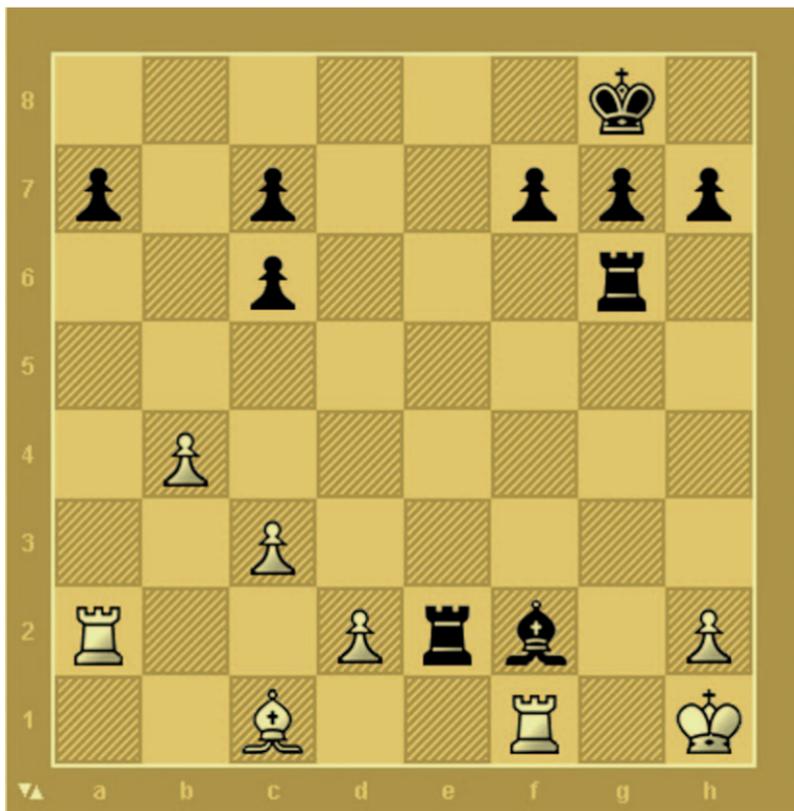
PUZZLES

Last Week's Solutions



Chess Maze

Black mate in 2 - White to move first



Word Hunt

This is exactly what the title suggests - hunt for words!



Guess the tube stations!



No, really - guess what tube stations these tile patterns are from....



1. Canapé
2. Iota
3. Tabulations
4. Holm
5. Napalm
6. Medii
7. Widiful
8. Tyrotoxiom
9. Scopperloit
10. Pronk
11. Nihilarian
12. Doom
13. Limerance
14. Depone
15. Erinaceous

Pictogram

- anagram of the letters in red spell the thematic answer

~ The worse you are at thinking, the better you are at drinking! ~

1. _ _ _ _
2. _ _ _ _

3. _ _ _ _
4. _ _ _ _

5. _ _ _ _ _
- Ans _ _ _ _ _



1. A non-sweet, anise-flavoured spirit popularly consumed in Greece, Turkey, Albania, Bosnia and other Balkan countries.



2. A rice-based alcoholic beverage of Japanese origin.



3. Goan liquor made from either coconut or the juice of the cashew apple.



4. Refined rice wine made from also known as Medicinal Alcohol.



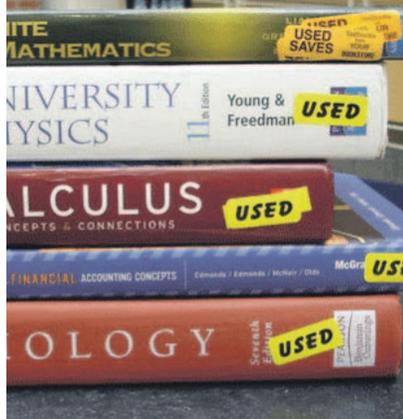
5. Chinese fermented beverage made from rice.

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a free advert, please email felix@imperial.ac.uk

Felix accepts no responsibility for items/services bought/sold

Deadline for adverts is Tuesday midnight



ROOMS

Double Room: Hammersmith

Room has desk, chair, bookcase and lots of storage. 15 minutes bus ride to Imperial College. 5 minute walk to Charing Cross campus

Available 1st Feb – 30th Sept
£520 /mo
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evy.kay33@googlemail.com

TUTORS

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Topics to be covered include: GitHub usage, AppEngine setup, Basic Unix and bash intro

Preferred language is Python, but C, C++ and Java are OK initially.
work.walter@gmail.com

Undergrad Biology/Biochemistry Tutoring

Daniel Goodman (3rd Year PhD Student in Molecular Microbiology).
daniel.goodman08@imperial.ac.uk

BOOKS

Fundamentals of Physics by Walker

8th Edition. £25 (£41.99 new) . Mint condition
07875735847

Mathematical Methods for Physics and Engineering

£20 (£30 new) - Great condition.
07875735847

Fundamentals of the Physical Environment

£20 (£30 new) - Great condition
07875735847

MISC

White John Lewis butterfly folding table

Comes with two chairs
£30 (Was £225)
07510304566

Folding six speed bicycle

Comes with lock, helmet, light and a bag.
£100 (Was £149 new)

CLOTHES

For all listed below, contact Kim Guan Yeap. 07954735960, kim.yeap10@imperial.ac.uk

Animal, Brown Hoodie with the Animal logo along the front and left sleeve, Size: Large [£15]

Animal, Lime Green T-shirt, Size: Extra-Large [£5]

Animal, White Sweater with Animal logo on the front, some stains on the cuffs - not massively noticeable, Size: Extra-Large [£5]

Animal, White Sweater with 'animal' printed on the front, some faint stains, Size: Large [£5]

Bench, T-shirt. Urban design white with streaks of pink, Size: Large [£10]

Burton, Turtleneck jumper. Black and Grey, Size: Large [£12]

Hollister, Jeans. Navy Blue, subtle fading through thighs, W33 x L32 [£20]

Hollister, White Zuma BCH Hoodie, Size: Small [£17.50]

Hollister, T-shirt. White Huntington BCH short-sleeved slim-fit, Size: Large [£10]

Levi's, Denim Jeans. 519 Slim-fit, fairly light blue, W32 x L34 [£30]

Polo Ralph Lauren, faded Navy Blue Hoodie. Holes on the left sleeve, Size: Large but more suited for Small instead [£5]

Tommy Hilfiger, Denim Jeans. Dark Navy Blue, W34 x L34 [£25]

LOVE

Men Seeking Women

Well-rounded and fun loving rugby player looking for sensitive and supportive C-cup. Preferably American but willing to accept Canadians. If interested please leave a drawing of your favourite sexual position in the north-west corner of Beit Quad.

Women Seeking Men

Bubbly Italian computing students looking for responsible Spaniard to share sunsets, midnight walks and conversations about whether HTML5 is the future. If interested come to Queen's Tower at 5pm on Tuesday. Bring netbook...

Men Seeking Men

7ft giant looking for 5ft 2" brown-haired twig. Preferably well-travelled with at least a 68% average. Should enjoy getting unnecessarily and riotously drunk with parents. If interested lift this newspaper above your head and say, "I'm your short-guy".

Women Seeking Women

Red-haired chemist looking for Bulgarian biologist to join voyage of bodily exploration. Should be open-minded, have good teeth and a healthy interest in the collected works of Proust. If interested, click 'random article' on Wikipedia repeatedly. If we're meant to be then you'll find me eventually.

SPORT

Felix Sports League



sponsored by

ERNST & YOUNG

Quality In Everything We Do

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Fencing W2	4	4	0	0	540	273	267	5.00
2 Basketball M1	6	6	0	0	453	326	127	5.00
3 Fencing M1	4	4	0	0	486	376	110	5.00
4 Table Tennis M2	5	5	0	0	77	8	69	5.00
5 Lacrosse W1	5	5	0	0	82	16	66	5.00
6 Basketball W1	3	3	0	0	132	101	31	5.00
7 Volleyball M1	6	6	0	0	12	1	11	5.00
8 Hockey W1	7	6	0	1	45	9	36	3.71
9 Tennis M1	9	7	1	1	68	40	28	3.67
10 Table Tennis M1	6	5	0	1	70	32	38	3.50
11 Water Polo W1	2	1	1	0	16	6	10	3.50
12 Volleyball W1	6	5	0	1	10	12	-2	3.50
13 Table Tennis W1	5	4	0	1	20	5	15	3.20
14 Squash W1	9	7	0	2	27	8	19	3.00
15 Fencing M2	8	6	0	2	952	832	120	2.75
16 ICSM Netball W1	8	6	0	2	327	211	116	2.75
17 Rugby M1	8	6	0	2	180	124	56	2.75
18 Tennis W1	4	3	0	1	26	22	4	2.75
19 Lacrosse M1	7	5	0	2	103	72	31	2.43
20 Badminton M1	7	4	2	2	38	26	12	2.29
21 Netball W1	9	6	0	3	374	263	111	2.00
22 ICSM Football M1	6	3	1	2	21	14	7	1.50
23 ICSM Hockey M3	5	3	0	2	9	18	-9	1.40
24 ICSM Hockey W1	13	7	1	5	37	32	5	1.31
25 Football M1	8	4	1	3	23	13	10	1.25
26 Hockey M3	6	2	2	2	6	5	1	1.00
27 ICSM Badminton W1	6	2	2	2	27	27	0	1.00
28 Badminton W1	9	5	0	4	30	42	-12	1.00
29 Hockey M2	8	3	2	3	15	23	-8	0.88
30 Hockey M1	5	2	1	2	13	13	0	0.80
31 ICSM Badminton M1	5	2	1	2	16	24	-8	0.80
32 ICSM Hockey M1	6	3	0	3	12	9	3	0.50
33 Football W1	4	2	0	2	10	9	1	0.50
34 ICSM Football M2	4	2	0	2	14	13	1	0.50
35 Netball W2	6	3	0	3	234	245	-11	0.50
36 ICSM Rugby M3	6	3	0	3	126	197	-71	0.50
37 Ice Hockey M1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
38 ICSM Football M3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
39 Lacrosse W2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
40 ICSM Netball W2	7	3	0	4	231	239	-8	-0.14
41 Netball W3	5	2	0	3	139	129	10	-0.40
42 ICSM Hockey M2	7	2	1	4	10	22	-12	-0.57
43 Squash M3	6	2	0	4	10	18	-8	-1.00
44 Fencing M3	6	2	0	4	653	708	-55	-1.00
45 Fencing W1	6	2	0	4	653	708	-55	-1.00
46 Badminton M2	7	2	0	5	28	28	0	-1.43
47 ICSM Hockey W2	7	2	0	5	19	31	-12	-1.43
48 Hockey W2	7	2	0	5	10	30	-20	-1.43
49 ICSM Rugby M1	7	2	0	5	122	237	-115	-1.43
50 Squash M4	4	1	0	3	5	7	-2	-1.75
51 ICSM Rugby M2	8	2	0	6	144	310	-166	-1.75
52 Rugby M3	5	1	0	4	44	148	-104	-2.20
53 Rugby M2	10	2	0	8	156	271	-115	-2.20
54 Rugby M4	5	1	0	4	46	197	-151	-2.20
55 Football M3	6	1	0	5	13	21	-8	-2.50
56 Hockey M4	6	1	0	5	7	17	-10	-2.50
57 Football M2	7	1	0	6	12	25	-13	-2.71
58 Squash M2	8	1	0	7	8	32	-24	-2.88
59 Water Polo M1	1	0	0	1	5	5	0	-4.00
60 ICSM Hockey W3	2	0	0	2	0	13	-13	-4.00
61 ICSM Badminton M2	4	0	0	4	7	25	-18	-4.00
62 Squash M1	6	0	0	6	4	26	-22	-4.00
63 Tennis M2	4	0	0	4	8	39	-31	-4.00
64 ICSM Netball W3	6	0	0	6	115	218	-103	-4.00

Don't extend College hours

Jovan Nedic argues that the proposed timetable changes would adversely affect Imperial's sports teams

It appears that the College has yet again taken a somewhat narrow-minded view on their latest venture, extending the working day for not only the students, but the staff as well. Forget the fact that they will have to ask staff to work longer hours, which might be a whole other bag of problems, but the change to the timetable would eat into the already limited hours available for extracurricular activities, in particular sports.

Although some might find Imperial's location within London an advantage, for the sports teams it can be a big problem, especially those who need large open spaces to practice. Even though Hyde Park is across the road and there is a public area for playing sports, I somewhat doubt that the general public would appreciate having 50 or so rugby players running up and down the grass, shredding the ground to pieces. Nor would they probably appreciate Lacrosse players flinging their balls around whilst children try to play peacefully in the park (yes I do realise how dirty that sounds). On top of that, we would need to find room for the footballers. In short, although Hyde Park would be an ideal location, it is not possible to have the teams there, which is why they train out at Harlington.

That in itself is a problem; the sheer distance to the grounds and the added costs of transport has meant that some of the sports teams have the highest budgets and travel expenses of the clubs and societies at Imperial. Take a typical training session, which would last 90 minutes or so. If you leave the Union at 18:00, you would not get back to the Union until close to 22:00, then you still have to get home. Training during the lunch hours would be a possible solution, but again there is the problem of using Hyde Park and the fact that humanities run during lunch. There simply isn't enough time, nor enough space, for all the outdoor sports teams to train at Harlington. Some have moved their training sessions to other grounds, some have moved them to Tuesday nights, but for most, having a big training session the night before a BUCS game on a Wednesday is just not feasible.

So what are the other options? Well you could train on a Thursday, but as already mentioned, this is the day after a game, not the ideal time to improve on your performance for the following weeks game. Friday night? Well we all know that just won't be a popular decision for the players! Extending the College hours to 19:00 on a Monday and Thursday will just make it that much more difficult for sports teams to function effectively.

There are some clubs that have tried training on a Saturday, however, for most, Saturdays and Sundays are when University of London (ULU) games are played. For the indoor teams, these games are also played on a Monday night! Yes, although sports such as netball, badminton and squash don't have to travel that far to get to their training sessions, it means that having ULU fix-



MasterCard excel at subtle advertising

tures on a Monday evening are feasible. Extending the hours would have a huge impact on the timetabling of these fixtures, especially if you have to travel to Royal Holloway.

The simple argument for the sports teams

"There simply wouldn't be enough time, nor enough space, for all the outdoor sports teams to train at Harlington"

would have to be that extending the hours to 19:00 would be detrimental to the effective running of their club and by extension, the experience of the students whilst at University. Players already struggle to find enough hours to complete their work and fit in all the training without taking out an extra hour in the evenings – which, if the College were so determined to go ahead with, would leave them with only one viable alternative; an early start during the week. But how many people are actually going to make it to a 08:00 lecture, staff included?

Wolverines put in strong performance at Essex Dodgeball Tournament

...Continued From Back Page

Unfortunately, he is also their best player and a threat. We decided the tactic would be to get him out first as his minions fall apart without him. Things were working well as the first two games ended as draws, which shocked the Minotaurs as they were the higher seeded team! However, they pulled through using their greater experience and beat us in the next three games. We felt it was a harsh result and it was not without many contested decisions and Moore's usual whining. It is enough to say we are very keen to play them again!

Our next match was against the eventual winners, Bedford Bulls A. This was never going to be a good match and they whitewashed us. They put their two England players and two England coaches to good use! However, they are good lads so we still enjoyed ourselves.

These two losses made our last group game vital. To win would have put us third in the group, and put us into the playoff for the quarter finals. We came up against Underdodge A, from Oxford, and comfortably won 4-1.

Our playoff was against the Bedford Bulls Mixed and from this point on we were playing a knockout competition which was best of five games. We again put in an efficient perfor-

mance and thrashed them 3-0.

This win guaranteed us a top eight finish and put us through to the quarters against the NCD Highwaymen. NCD are currently top of the Southern Conference and on the day had not lost even a single game in four matches! We weren't expecting to win by any means, but we sure gave them a good run for their money in an exciting match. They took the first game by a narrow two players to one, which already had them looking concerned, and then we went on to win the second game! Now they were focused! We continued to play some of our best dodgeball of the day with Adam Cutmore making a vital contribution with monster catches and Tom Peake making superb use of his counter attacking ability. Alas, it was not to be our day and NCD edged the next two games for the 3-1 win. We all felt very hard done by but conceded that we had played a lot better than expected and lost to worthy opponents (the eventual runners-up whose team included an England player and the England head coach).

In the end, we went home with our heads held high and we now move up to fourth place in the Southern Conference league! Our next tournament is at Winchester University and it is the qualifier for the University Cup.

SPORT

Rugby: 1st XV record stylish victory

David Wilson
Rugby Union
Imperial 27 - 0 RUMS

The fifteen recorded a well-deserved victory and impressive victory over RUMS in their first match back after Christmas. The disruption caused by the inclement weather towards the end of the Christmas term meant that this was the first game that the 1st XV were playing for nearly two months. This however, did not stop the team out classing their opponents who showed no signs of ever winning the match.

It has been leaked that following the festive break the squad met in order to discuss how should build upon the performances of last term. Various reports suggest that the team are changing their training and the buzz word around the squad at the moment appears to be 'standards' with coaches Brimah Kebbie and Richard Birkett introducing painful fitness exercises in order to trim down some of 'the fat club'.

Imperial arrived at the ground well ahead of schedule and were warming up by the time their opposition stepped off the bus. Imperial took the initiative from the off with RUMS unable to handle the Imperial's attacks. Imperial broke the deadlock through fly half James Hayward who cut through some poor defence with Max Joachim adding the extras before stroking home a penalty. Imperial's forwards were dominant in the set piece although they were put under pressure at the base of the scrum with number 8 and stand in skipper Charlie Esberger and scrum half Olly Cox constantly being scragged. Despite

this the forwards turned over RUMS ball at the put in on more than one occasion. Added to this the lineout, which has in the past proved to be an Achilles heel for Imperial worked well and Imperial were awarded a penalty try after RUMS persistently collapsed the Imperial's driving mauls off the lineout.

Imperial were reduced to 14 men just before half time with the referee judging Thomas Chavas' tackle to be illegal. Imperial went into half time sitting on a comfortable lead but knew that the first ten minutes of the second half would be keen. On too many occasions this season they have let teams back into the game after switching off at half time. Coupled to which Imperial were a man down.

Imperial didn't take a backward step and continued to dominate their opposition pack despite Chavas' absence. The endeavor of the team was rewarded with another try, courtesy of Ed Labinski at the back of another driving maul. Labinski is currently scoring at will and could even end up Imperial's top scorer at the end of the season, a prize which a certain Chris McGeough would be desperate to achieve judging by his touchline hugging appearances which have become common although were strangely absent yesterday.

Whilst Imperial's forwards managed to subdue their opposite numbers with prop Simon Fenton winning the Man of the Match award, Olly Cox was often caught at the breakdown and was unable to provide quick ball as a result. Some suggest that Cox may have let himself go over Christmas and is a member of the aforementioned 'fat club'. His weight increase may have contributed

to his lethargy at distributing the ball to Hayward.

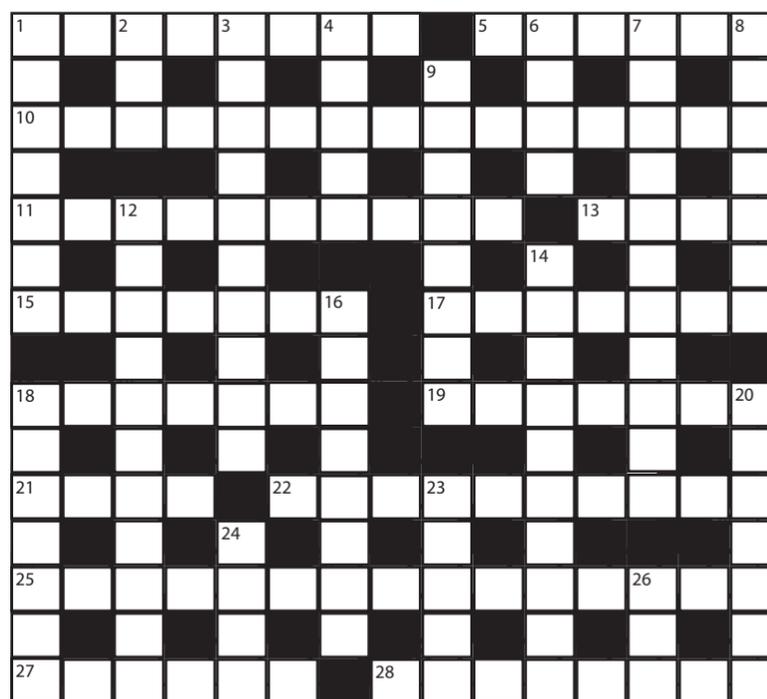
Joe Harris and George '95 kilos' Lane combined well in the centre putting in some good tackles but were not given too much of an opportunity to run. Louie Barnett showed attacking promise cutting through the RUMS defensive line and looked very quick on occasions. Nathan Fitzpatrick rounded off the scoring for Imperial by grabbing the fourth try of the match. Fitzpatrick surprised everyone, including himself, by finding the try line. Toby Spittle played well in the front row until Angus Tenison-Collins replaced him due to a dodgy shoulder. David Wilson looked to enhance his reputation as being 'the new Alex Johnstone' but his lineout throwing was perhaps too accurate for this comparison to hold true, despite Wilson maintaining fantastic chat throughout.

Ollie Benton provided an able replacement for Fitzpatrick and celebrated the win by tucking into chicken drumsticks claiming to be on a new diet that is sweeping the rugby club by storm. Pierre L'Bour made his first appearance for the 1st team late in the game as Kebbie used one of his now famous late tactical substitutions.

The victory was a mature performance from a team, which has not hit top gear yet this season. The attitude of the team was epitomised by the Imperial forwards turning over the RUMS scrum in the last play of the game.

The team left feeling extremely satisfied with their performance and a some of the players took to the social networking site Twitter to display their pleasure at the result.

Cryptic Crossword 1,479



- Across**
- Eastern toads mixed up in Rolls-Royce, a car (8)
 - Boat found in angular kale (3)
 - Cutting flower for greater flow of air (10)
 - Former painting put up outside (5)
 - Note one's food intake involving financial matters (6)
 - Really want to sell idea, lacking leader (4)
 - Vegetable, perhaps? (5,6)
 - Toilet strangely reliant (7)
 - Morning person with low voice to like interminable diplomat (10)
 - Gets upset about everything and nothing, measuring food with these (8)
 - Tea on seat with back removed (4)
 - Place for judge can be fiery substitute (5,6)
 - Neutered, lacking energy at sea guaranteed job (7)
 - Countryman domain hit lightly before outbreak of violence (10)
 - Elemental form is nothing. Best beginner ever! (7)
 - Absurd loan deed a virtual certainty (4,4)
 - Complain about weather in country (7)
 - Ghost to prevent woman from entering initially (7)
 - Thus papa managed love for singer (7)
 - Disgusting blood types picture (7)
 - Clean without using water (4)
 - Country surrounded by rising assistance (5)
 - Commercial wordings lead to psychological dependencies (10)
 - Communist representative thoroughly searched milkman (6,3,6)
 - Harness concerning what's fashionable (4)
 - 'Annah's pretentious talk straying from the point (6)
 - Greek island hidden from Greek Oscars (3,2,3)
 - Animal moderately rapid after losing wings (5)
 24. 8 may fall off this entree, in France as well (4)
- Down**
- Before tea, President Jim to go back on his word? (7)

Fixtures & Results

in association with

Saturday 15 January	VOLLEYBALL	Sunday 16 January	SQUASH ULU	FENCING	Men's 6s	0	Thursday 20 January
FOOTBALL ULU	Men's 1s	2 RUGBY UNION ULU	Men's 3s	5 Men's 2s	94 Goldsmith University of	Men's 2s	5 NETBALL ULU
Men's 2s	5 UCL 1s	1 Women's 1s	5 St George's Hospital Medical	UCL 1s	131 London 3s	2 UCL 1s	34 Women's 4s vs LSE 6s
LSE 3s	1	King's College London 1s	36 School	0			
	Men's 1s	2					
Men's 4s	3 Kingston 1s	0	WATERPOLO ULU	FOOTBALL	GOLF	Women's 1s	10 Saturday 22 January
UCL 5s	0	NETBALL ULU	Men's 1s	Men's 1s	3 Men's 1s	1 King's College London	39
	Men's 1s	2 Women's 1s	31 UCL 2s	1	0 Kingston University 2s	2	
Men's 5s	1 Men's 1s	0 RUMS 1s	16	Men's 3s	1 LACROSSE	Men's 2s	0 BASKETBALL ULU
St Bart's 2s	0 University of Kent 1s	0	Wednesday 19 January	Brunel 5s	3 Men's 1st	16 UCL 1s	5 Women's 1s vs LSE 1s
	Women's 1s	0 St Bart's 2s	32 BADMINTON		1 Canterbury Christ Church 1s	1	
Men's 6s	0 Women's 1s	2	Women's 1st	5 FOOTBALL ULU	1 Women's 1s	17 LSE 1s	4 Men's 1st vs St Bart's 1st
King's College London 5s	1 UCL 1s	2	32 LSE 1st	3 Men's 4s	5 Women's 1s	3	0 Men's 2nd vs UCL 4th
	Women's 3s	2 Imperial Medicals 4s	24 BASKETBALL	King's College London 3s	0 Royal Holloway 1s	3 TENNIS	0 Men's 3rd vs London South
Men's 7s	1 Women's 1s	0	Men's 1s	79 Men's 5s		Men's 1s	8 Bank University 1st
School of Slavonic & Eastern	University of Sussex 1s	0	1 Canterbury Christ Church	62 Queen Mary's 3s	3 RUGBY UNION	University of Brighton 1s	4 Men's 4th vs RUMS 2nd
European Studies 2s	7		1 King's College London	3	1 Men's 1s	27	8 Men's 5th vs LSE 5th
			3		RUMS 1s	0	4 Men's 6th vs King's College London 4th

Netball: IC beat the Medics in first match of term

Lucinda Hazell
 Netball

IC 3rd 32 - 24 Medics 4th

The unfit, untrained and turkey stuffed IC girls rocked up to Ethos on Monday night with much foreboding, the unmistakable sense of apprehension and anxiety could only mean one thing. Medics. This year's match was made even more personal due to Becky's unfortunate living arrangements with the medic captain.

The team's strategy was simple, win and win well. IC got off to a great start over turning the first Medic centre and scoring the first two goals. In the meantime, captain Lucie was eager to sever any prior medic relations ensuring the opposition captain crumbled to floor in her wake. However, from here things started to go a bit pear shaped and our lack of training became evident towards the end of the first quarter with IC narrowly leading 8 - 6 when the whistle blew.

Things picked up in the second quarter and there was excellent movement in the

IC goal third between shooters Angela and Heather, however the medics had some good set plays in the centre third and IC were unable to extend their lead, the score at the end of the first half was 15 - 13.

After a rousing team talk at half time the IC girls returned to the court feeling revitalised, it was a fantastic quarter and there was brilliant defensive play from Fern and Nakai, intercepting many balls in the medic's goal third. The IC girls finally looked like they were on form, there were some exceptional shots from goal shooter Lucinda and great passing around the goal third by centre Sarah and wing attack Lucie. IC were able to score twice as many goals as the medics, increasing the lead at the end of the third quarter to 25 - 18.

In the last quarter the medics rallied together for a final attack but it wasn't enough to worry the IC girls and the final score was 32 - 24.

Despite some untidy play it was a good first game back for the third team and a promising start to the term.



Dodgeball: Wolverines edge up league table

Alan Soltani

On Sunday 16th January, Imperial Wolverines took seven eager dodgeballers to a village in Essex to challenge for glory. Some members of the team needed some convincing to make the journey but Tom Peake, at his second official tournament with the Wolverines, soon made it very clear why it would be a fruitful trip. "Essex? Isn't that where all the sluts live?"

Brilliant.

After catching the train, haggling with some very desperate cab drivers, and waiting around for a while because of delays, we finally got underway at 1pm. IC Wolverines were placed in a tough group with Bedford Bulls A, the eventual winners, and a team we had crossed swords with in Southampton earlier in the season, Minotaur Dodgeball.

The way tournament matches work

is that you have five two-minute games and the team to have won the most out of those five, wins the match.

The first match of the day was against the Minotaurs and it proved a feisty affair! Their captain, 'Moore', is well known for being a bit of a complainer, but on Sunday he took "throwing one's toy out of one's pram" to another level, turning the entire crowd against him.

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FILM



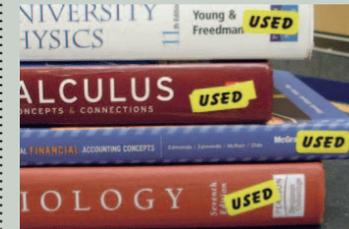
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